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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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utilities, are you still
able to set aside a
portion of your
paycheck for
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INSIDE



No Frisking

Palau President Tommy Remengesau was briefly stranded in Manila when a U.S. airline refused to let him board without being frisked.

LOCAL...Page 16

Church Blast

An explosion in a Milwaukee suburb demolished a church and damaged two homes.

NATION...Page 23



Kick Butts

Hundreds of students from different schools paraded Wednesday afternoon for the 4th Annual Kick Butts Day March and rally.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 29

Because of the need for coordination of aviation with indirect fires, I did note at the FAA conference that we may have mortars and artillery positions as part of our training ranges on Tinian.

—Col. Clyde T. Burton, Marine Corps Bases Pacific MCI MidPac director

Artillery training on Tinian eyed

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The U.S. Marines is looking at Tinian as a possible training ground for its artillery units once 8,000 of its troops relocate from Okinawa to Guam.

This was disclosed yesterday by Marine Corps Bases Pacific MCI MidPac Director Col. Clyde T. Burton in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Burton said he discussed the service's

RELATED NEWS

Torres: GIAA ready for military relocation. **PAGE 4**

2 Labor employees, 6 others arrested

For alleged bribery,
conspiracy to submit
forged documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two employees of the Department of Labor and six other persons were arrested

plans for the region in Thursday's 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, but he did not delve into details because

See ARTILLERY on Page 4

Tuesday for alleged involvement in bribery and a conspiracy to forge documents submitted at Labor.

Defendants Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero

See 2 LABOR on Page 4

Resident status forum draws hundreds

Close to 400 people, most of them long-term alien workers, attended Wednesday night's forum on the issue of long-term resident status for aliens in the CNMI.

Dekada counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, CNMI Bar Association president Maya

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Austerity bill hurdles bitter House debate. **PAGE 5**
Tourists fall victim to Marpi burglars. **PAGE 7**

INTRODUCING

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Local

DPL: Extend lease term for public lands

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has asked the Legislature to consider extending the permissible term for public land leases in the Commonwealth.

DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario said this would have a greater impact on the economy than a pending move to extend allowable leasehold terms for private lands.

He argued that there is little private property left for purposes of major investment. Most of major investments, he added, are located on—or in the process of leasing—public property.

Del Rosario also noted that other jurisdictions in the region have extended land leases to 99 years. That is more than double the 40 years allowed in the Northern Marianas.

"The extension of public

land leases for the same period (99 years) will not change land ownership, but enhance the dire need for both sides to engage in sturdy planning and lasting partnership in the highest and best use of indigenous land," he told the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The committee is reviewing House Legislative Initiative

16-4, which seeks to increase leasehold interests for private lands up to 75 years, from 55 years.

A public hearing on the proposed constitutional amendment, as well as two similar initiatives, was held at the Legislature on

Wednesday evening.

In the legislative hearing, Marianas Public Land Trust

proposed that the Legislature defer action on the initiative until 2011, when the CNMI is scheduled to decide on land alienation restrictions.

The Strategic Economic Development Council, a group of business and government leaders, reiterated its support for the initiative.

Sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofsneider, House Legislative Initiative 16-4 requires approval by three-fourths of both the House of Representatives

and the Senate.

After that, the proposed constitutional amendment must be certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission and placed on the ballot at a special election set for April 19, 2008.

If approved by majority of voters, new leases on private lands will be extended to 75 years, while existing leasehold agreements may be renegotiated for a new lease term of up to 75 years.



Del Rosario

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CUC fuel rate remains low for residential customers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Here's good news for residential customers. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel rate in April will remain the lowest at 17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

According to CUC, the 17.6 cents per kWh residential fuel rate will be implemented again this month pursuant to Public Law 15-94.

But it's still bad news for businesses, government agencies, and for non-conforming load customers. These agencies' fuel rate will be 32.7 cents per kWh, which is an 8.9 cents per kWh increase when compared to the March rate of 28.8 cents per kWh.

Telesource reiterates offer of power generator for Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Telesource CNMI Inc. has reiterated its offer to transfer one of its generators on Tinian to the Saipan power plant.

The company, which operates the Tinian power plant, took up the idea with the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications after receiving no response from the Filial administration, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., or the Legislature.

"Our ideas may be seemingly too good to be true, as some have said, but the failure to investigate and explore further the validity of our idea or proposal is pure negligence," Telesource CEO and president Nidal Z. Zayed told the newly appointed PUTC chairman, Rep. Victor B.

The rates pursuant to P.L. 15-94 took effect beginning March 2008 as the Filial administration's emergency regulations had already expired.

Under the April electric fuel rates, the rates for residential customers will be 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh and 22 cents per kWh for over 1,000 kWh.

In addition, residential customers will be paying a fixed rate of \$3.50 in customer charges per month.

For businesses, they will be paying the fixed 8.6 cents for electric non-fuel rate and 32.7 cents for electric fuel rate, for a total of 41.3 cents for all kWh billed.

Businesses will also be assessed a fixed monthly cus-

tomer charge of \$7.67.

Last month, the residential fuel rate was 17.6 cents per kWh. But businesses, government agencies, and for non-conforming load customers' fuel rate last month was 28.8 cents per kWh.

Residential customers first experienced the lowest fuel rates only in October 2007 when P.L. 15-94 took effect, putting a cap at 17.6 cents per kWh.

With the administration's signing of emergency regulations on Nov. 9, 2007, the electric fuel rate for residential customers jumped from 17.6 cents per kWh to the highest ever 25.8 cents per kWh, which remained in place from that month until January 2008.

Hocog yesterday. not skepticism from some elected officials.

Zayed said that Telesource submitted a similar idea to the CNMI government as far back as July 2006, but it had never received a reply to its offer.

Another option being examined is to lay down cables on the ocean bed between Tinian and Saipan, where electrical power can then be shared by both islands.

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Torres: GIAA ready for military relocation

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The head honcho of Guam's airport authority believes that the Antonio B. (A.B.) Won Pat International Airport is ready for the influx of 8,000 U.S. Marines and 9,000 of their dependents from Okinawa, Japan.

Guam International Airport Authority executive manager Jess Q. Torres said they are ready to absorb a growth of 5-7 percent in additional passengers generated by people directly related to the military and indirectly related because of the capital projects that will be

associated with the military buildup.

"We feel we are [ready] but the best thing to do is plan based on the resources we have, based on the master plan that we've put [together]. Success in that is in your ability to adapt to changes. Not just natural but also man-made; whether it's economically driven by outside the island or economically driven inside the island. If you can stay on top of that one, I think we will be doing our job as to what the people would like us to do," he said before making his presentation in last Thursday's 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

He said that in terms of airport infrastructure, GIAA would need to expand its runways, put underground electrical systems, water systems, cables for communication purposes, reinforce terminal facilities—in case there are natural disasters—to accommodate the 17,000 or so "new arrivals."

Already, according to Torres, GIAA is ahead of the curve as witnessed by the scheduled opening of its expanded 10,000-foot runway in June. He added that their current 10,000-foot runway should be extended to 12,000 feet to accommodate larger and heavier aircraft.

"We are ahead of the 8-ball, meta-

phorically speaking. One of our runways will be open to commercial use by June of this year. We had to stretch it from 8,000 feet to 10,000."

The anticipated relocation is not without its share of problems though, as Torres readily admitted.

"Obviously when you relocate that number of uniformed personnel and their dependents any transition of that magnitude to us islanders is a big event. We have limited land resources, among other things. But I'm an eternal optimist, you [try and] work with people. We as a local people cannot do it ourselves but that's [true] for any develop-

ment of this magnitude. [It will] have an impact on the civilian community and that's why our governor (Carlos Camacho) has established the Joint Civilian and Military Task Force so that impacts can be had for most sectors of the community."

Torres also hopes that while GIAA has one eye on the relocation of uniformed servicemen from Okinawa, it will train the other in maintaining Guam as a tourist destination.

He added that aside from the military relocation, GIAA also wants a piece of burgeoning trans-Pacific business from the Middle Kingdom—China.

"The action is in China and we are right in the middle between China and the U.S. so we want to take advantage of that business opportunity."

In terms of revenue generated by the explosion of people coming in and out of Won Pat, Torres preferred to be conservative with his estimates.

"It's going to be a gradual effect [in income and revenues] because the activities just don't happen with the confined time schedule. As I understand it, the buildup is gradual. Obviously, it's our hope that if they use our facility, which I hope they will, that becomes an additional revenue for our airports. So, it could help pay our bills and any additional revenue we could pour it back to the infrastructure. Keep it up to date, keep it state-of-the-art."

Stanley outraged by initiative scrapping immunity

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker known for his stinging speeches on the House floor has protested a proposal to remove a constitutional clause protecting legislators from being sued for their statements during session.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres said the legislative initiative would prevent all important information from getting to the public and inhibit dis-

cussion on the floor.

"It's plain stupidity," he said in a letter to Speaker Arnold I. Palacios. "I trust the general public will reject this initiative as it is against its best interest, and vote in favor of full and frank discussion on the House floor."

Rep. Victor Hocog introduced the initiative following a debate in the House over the appointment of Kimberly King-Hinds to the Public Utilities Commission. During that debate,

Torres accused King-Hinds lying to the Legislature about her qualifications and affiliations.

Prior to this incident, Torres had also delivered speeches with personal attacks against former DPS Commissioner Rebecca Warfield, Attorney General Matthew Gregory, and Assistant Attorney General Mike Nisperos, among others.

Hocog's initiative states that lawmakers should not be allowed to "hide behind the immunity granted to insult

constituents. The people of the Commonwealth should not have to wonder which person will be slandered next when the Legislature meets in session."

But Torres argued that the immunity was put in place "not just to promote candor, [but also] to protect those who would raise uncomfortable questions about government appointments, bring up embarrassing facts about government misdeeds, point out misfeasance by government employees, or simply to challenge the status quo."

RESIDENT

From Page 1

Kara, Governor's legal counsel Deanne Siemer, and TaoTao Tano president Greg Cruz were among the key speakers at the forum held at Monte Carlo in Chalan Piao.

The venue was so packed with people that a huge crowd was forced to stay outside as the place could not accommodate any more people.

All speakers agreed to keep talk-

ing about the issue in order to figure out the best and the right way to go about possibly changing CNMI law to grant improved status to long-term alien workers.

Some local residents and businessmen also participated in the discussion that lasted more than two hours.

Woodruff told *Saipan Tribune* that the issue is worth pursuing and that the forum is a good idea for garnering all possible input.

"This is a good idea that is something that we ought to do. There's general

agreement on that," Woodruff said.

The lawyer pointed out that it's a process to discuss long-term resident status for aliens in the CNMI.

Woodruff said there's no specific proposal or bill yet related to this issue.

"It's a process to try to reach consensus in the community, that this is something that is ought to be done and what are the ways it ought to be done. The process is moving forward very nicely," he said.

The bottom line, Woodruff said, is to have all interested parties in the com-

munity to have their say and to pay attention so that they can try to have agreement.

He said there are business people who believe that this is a good idea.

Woodruff cited that Cruz is already part of the process, which was started by Siemer.

Siemer first approached Conrad Ocampo, one of the Unity Movement core organizers, to discuss about meeting with some Filipino groups.

Woodruff said they ultimately agreed to that and so the first small meeting

2 LABOR

From Page 1

and Janel Alepuyo are both employees at Labor's Application Processing Section.

The six other defendants are Teresita J. Deleon Guerrero, Nelia D. Lozano, Angelito Santos, Anita A. Camacho, Arnel B. Panieza, and Emilia A. Panieza.

All defendants were taken to Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

According to the allegations, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero and his wife Teresita Deleon Guerrero, Alepuyo, Santos, Lozano, Angel's School of Dance Inc., and ALT International Corp. were in-

volved in bribery for immigration gain, exploitation of a position of authority, document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, unlawful employment of aliens, and conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of aliens.

Immigration Investigator Erwin Flores of the Attorney General's Office's Investigation Unit stated in his report that a "cooperating defendant" informed him in an interview on March 17, 2008, that Lozano would use a fake notary signature stamp and affix false notarial signature stamps onto documents to support an alien worker's application to Labor and Division of Immigration for the issuance of entry permits.

Flores said the source disclosed that

Lozano provides services to ALT International Corp. by affixing unauthorized notarial signature stamps on nonresident workers' applications submitted to Labor and Immigration.

The source also allegedly revealed that Lozano had also provided service to Angel's International School of Dance by affixing unauthorized and fraudulent notarial signature stamps onto work certifications that were submitted to Labor in support of entry permit applications.

The source had stated that Teresita Deleon Guerrero and Santos knew of the false job certifications that were submitted to Labor and Immigration.

Quoting the source, Flores said that Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, a Labor

employee, would flag any discrepancies in nonresident workers applications that were prepared by ALT before submitting the documents to Labor and Immigration to make sure that they pass muster.

Flores said the source also stated that Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero knew beforehand that the alien workers applications processed and prepared by ALT contained false "job certifications."

The source apparently told Flores that she paid Alepuyo, a Labor processing employee, for entry permits of non-resident workers processed by ALT.

Flores said that Commerce records indicate that ALT International Corp. is authorized to conduct businesses that include document handling.

ARTILLERY

From Page 1

the Marines are still at the conceptual phase of developing its training plans.

"We are beginning to work on a master plan which will lead to more details in the future. However, because of the need for coordination of aviation with indirect fires, I did note at the FAA conference that we may have mortars and artillery positions as part of our training ranges on Tinian," he said.

Burton said that he also shared with workshop participants the safety measures the Marines are planning to put in place if the plan to use Tinian as a train-

ing ground for its artillery units pushes through.

"I noted that there are a number of Surface Danger Zones around the actual training ranges which prevent inadvertent (i.e., the one-in-a-million chance of a round or fragment acting in a non-uniform way), and that this should not be interpreted as areas where we expect effects on a regular basis. In other words, the vast majority of rounds will be expended in the relatively small areas of the ranges themselves," he said.

Burton said the Marines are also concerned about citizen and tourist access to historical/cultural areas on Tinian and that they intend to work

with the government of the CNMI on that issue.

"This will take a lot of coordination between ourselves, the environmental representatives, and the government to optimize the best use of the island," he said.

The Marines have leased 17,800 acres of prime Tinian land from the Marianas Political Status Commission but this property has remained idle.

When asked what potential benefits Tinian could hope for with the Marines finally making use of the land, Burton said the island could expect growth in construction, service and maintenance, and tourism.

"I believe that benefits will accrue to

the local economy. First, there will be some amount of construction of these ranges and the Range Control Center. I hope that local companies bid on the contracts or subcontract with those companies who put together bids to do this work.

"Then there will be ongoing maintenance and control of these areas. Also, I expect to see an increase in your tourism from the additional folks who will be stationed in Guam. Saipan and Tinian are natural close destination points for the families and Marines to be stationed on Guam," said Col. Burton.

Estimates are that uniformed personnel will bring over 9,000 of their dependents when they relocate to the U.S. territory.

CNMI leaders have been advocating for the increased military use of land on Tinian by the U.S. military, especially in light of the Marines relocation to neighboring Guam and the accompanying expansion there set for 2010-2014.

They have argued that major land-based military activity, either direct or indirect, in the CNMI could include construction of permanent facilities, repair of Tinian's docks and breakwater, improvements to the water delivery system, as well as increased economic activity that would benefit many small businesses.

Austerity bill hurdles bitter House debate

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday a set of so-called "interim fiscal measures" proposed by the administration.

The bill reinstates the austere

Microl is tops in new vehicle sales in March

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Microl Corp. continued to command the lion's share of new vehicle sales last March, which saw the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association record a 23.53-percent drop in units sold.

The San Jose auto dealership experienced a five-unit drop in March 2008 to 25, a 16.67-percent decrease from the 30 disposed of in the same period last year.

Despite this, Microl continued to lord it over Joeten Motors and Triple J Motors by cornering 48.08 percent of the market. Its sales for the month of March consist of 17 cars, one truck, two vans, and five sports utility vehicles.

A stone's throw away north of Beach Road, Joeten Motors, meanwhile, captured 28.85 percent of the market after selling 15 units.

The number actually represents a 21.05-percent decline in units sold compared to March 2007, which saw buyers drive away with 19 vehicles from Joeten Motors.

Broken down, March 2008 sales was made up of eight cars, two trucks, and five SUVs.

Triple J Motors brings up

Friday program and suspends holiday pay for the three holidays remaining in this fiscal year. It also reduces the government's retirement contribution rate to 11 percent, much lower than the actuary-recommended rate of 36.77 percent of the total payroll.

The measures, floated amid dwindling revenue collections,

Furthermore, the bill reprograms nearly \$6 million from various revenue sources outside the General Fund.

are expected to raise approximately \$17 million for government operations.

The bill passed with a 15-4 vote in the Lower House. Representatives David Apatang, Heinz Hofsneider, Tina Sablan, and Ralph Torres voted no. Rep. Rosemond Santos was absent.

Sablan opposed the bill after failing to gain support for her proposal to have elected officials terminate government-paid mobile phones and vehicle leases.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente, one of the lawmakers who voted down the proposed amendment, said that Sablan's suggestion might cause controversy and delay passage of the bill in the Senate.

"This kind of amendment has no room in this legislation," Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero echoed Benavente's sentiment.

Sablan also had wanted to make other amendments to the bill, but did not get a chance to offer them on the floor. The amendments included slashing the salaries of justices and judges and elected officials, downsizing the government, mandating a

10-percent reduction in the government's power usage, banning locally funded travel, replacing austerity Fridays with a daily one-hour cut on government work hours, and slashing the discretionary fund of legislators, the governor and Lt. governor by 50 percent.

"Let no one say that all I did was object. I offered suggestions, but nobody was listening," she said.

For his part, Hofsneider raised concerns about "ambiguities" in the bill. He said the Legislature should set more specific guidelines for spending the bill's \$17-million impact on

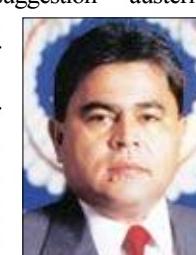
government resources.

"Whether the money should be used for the retirement program or the utility—the Legislature has the responsibility to state a specific purpose. We cannot just hand over a blank check to the Executive Branch," he said.

He added that most of the Sablan's proposed amendments had merit, as they would restrict government expenditures and apply more fairness to the austerity measures.

"You're taking away from the employees, and you're driving around in government vehicles. Where is the fairness in that?" asked Hofsneider.

The bill now heads to the Senate for action.



Hofsneider

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MHS students send scorpions to NY museum

Biology students from Marianas High School gathered on campus last Thursday night with teacher Michael Blasberg to hunt scorpions.

Using a UV flashlight, students were able to locate and

capture several Liocheles australasiae scorpions. The specimens will be preserved and sent to the Museum of Natural History in New York where they will be placed on file with the Zoology division.

Several scorpions were captured last semester as part of a classification unit and

students contacted Associate curator Lorenzo Prennini, PhD of the Arachnids

& Myriapods division to assist in identifying the small scorpions. The museum then

requested several persevered samples to keep on file at the museum. (MHS)



Scorpion under UV light



MHS Students (left to right) Jolly Cruz, James Jucutan, Arisha Nishimura, Joi Urcia, and Edward Dela Cruz hunting scorpions on the MHS campus.



Scorpion under natural light



MHS Students (left to right, front) Jolly Cruz, James Jucutan, Arisha Nishimura, Kim Seung Yeon, Joi Urcia, (back) Rodrigo Ada, Erryne Dasalla, and Edward Dela Cruz examining scorpions in the lab.



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Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



Tourists fall victim to Marpi burglars

Two tourist families on a sightseeing tour in Marpi fell victim to burglars in two separate incidents Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 1:26pm, DPS received a report of a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Preliminary investigations reveal that the victim and his family went sightseeing at the Last Command Post. Around 15 minutes into their sightseeing, the victim returned to his rented vehicle, which was parked at the southern end near the Korean monument, and discovered that the driver's rear passenger window had been shattered.

The perpetrator(s) in this case stole the victim's passport, cred-

it card, and an undetermined amount of money.

The next day, April 2, 2008, at 4:35pm, DPS received another

report of a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Suicide Cliff lookout in Marpi.

Based on preliminary find-

ings, a Korean family of five went sightseeing at the Suicide Cliff lookout. Police learned that an unknown man had entered

their vehicle and stole several items belonging to the victims. They included a black bag, an IBM Lenova laptop, passports and an undetermined amount of money. The victims are tourists.

Police investigators are currently investigating these cases.

Anyone having information about this crime are urged to call the NMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272. All calls are kept anonymous, no caller ID is used and a reward of up to \$1,000 is given for any information leading to an arrest. (DPS)

Manglona disappointed with PSS' Borja

Sen. Paul A. Manglona has expressed his disappointment with Education Commissioner David Borja for not "properly addressing the concerns of Rota parents and PTA members" on the issue between Rota High School Lynne Michael and Board of Education member

Tanya Denise King.

"It appears to me that the Commissioner has taken a biased stance on this issue and cannot objectively assess the situation," Manglona said.

The senator accused Borja of dismissing concerns of parents and PTA members, "while

at the same time admitting that bullying and intimidation has taken place at the school."

"I feel this flies in the face of the Rota parents, teachers and PTA members who have expressed their concerns regarding the management of RHS," Manglona said.

He added that he knows what it means to work with "hand in hand with these stakeholders."

"The parents and PTA members are intimately aware of the happenings and needs at their schools. We should encourage their participation and input rather than dismiss their concerns as over-reactive and emotional,"

Manglona said.

Manglona believes that there are some real and legitimate concerns among Rota residents as to how the high school is being managed.

"It is the board's duty to respond to these concerns and make recommendations to resolve the matter," he said. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

Marriage Encounter Weekend coming up

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on April 25-27, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

■ Tony & Lynne Yarobwemal at 234-5053; tonyy822@gmail.com & lindaey@gmail.com

■ Frank & Joanne DLGuererro, at joanne@pacificains.com

■ Vince & Hilma Castro at 322-4484 or hilmacastrome@gmail.com

■ John & Vicky Mafnas at 285-8454 or vbmafna@yahoo.com

You may also contact the Ecclesiastic Team/Executive Board members Fr. Ike Ayuyu at 285-9324, or ike@ayuyu.us; or Charles & Cathy Cepeda at 483-6435 or charlescepeda@gmail.com & nannakit@hotmail.com.

All Encountered couples and priests are invited to share their gifts, talents and time in the planning and hosting of this powerful Weekend. Planning meetings are held every Friday at 6:30pm at the residence of Charles and Cathy Cepeda in Fina Sisu. Bring a pot-luck dish and join in the planning fun! The nest meeting is on April 11, 2008. (PR)



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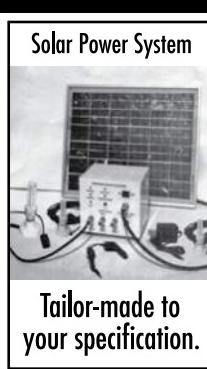
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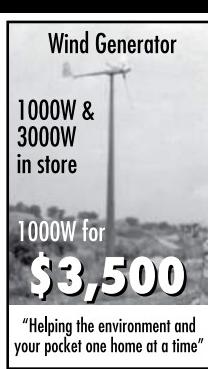
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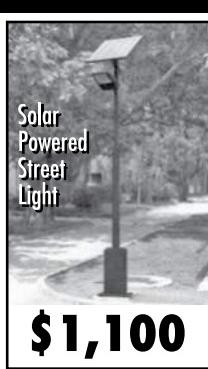
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'I am not a WESPAC member 24-7'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Fishermen's Cooperative president Manny Duenas said that, although an official of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council for the Guam Chapter, he is not a council member 24 hours a day.

Duenas said when he apologized during the course of the WESPAC meetings on Guam and Saipan in March, he was not acting on behalf of the council but as a Guam resident and president of the Guam Fisherman's Co-Op.

Duenas said that when the Western & Central Pacific Network reported that a council member was meddling with

cultural affairs, it was based on a misunderstanding as to his role on Guam.

The Network referred to Duenas as a council official when he apologized to the WESPAC.

Duenas reiterated that he was speaking only as a Guam resident and president of the Fisherman's co-op when he apologized to the council for any "embarrassment" he may have caused WESPAC.

"I'm a resident of Guam and a U.S. citizen. I should have the right to speak," Duenas said.

He added that he has filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union because he claimed his civil rights were infringed upon by the Network who said that he cannot speak

on behalf of the fishermen as he is a member of WESPAC.

"I'm only a member when I attend the meetings. I am not a member all day, every day. When I'm off-duty from WESPAC I'm Manny Duenas, fisherman and a private citizen," Duenas said.

Duenas was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve as vice-chair for WESPAC Guam. According to the Network, once appointed, council members cannot after-the-fact disassociate themselves from their Council seats.

Duenas said that when he apologized, he was not admitting guilt.

"My announcement to the Council was to apologize for

any misunderstanding, and not guilt," Duenas said.

He said the Network "is wrong" for accusing him of meddling with local affairs when he is a resident and a president of the Fisherman's Co-op.

He added he wants to make it very clear that, "I am Guam's representative to the Council and not the Council's representative to Guam."

"I am the vice chair for WESPAC in Guam. Only the chair and the director can speak on behalf of the WESPAC," Duenas said.

He added that the Network is wrong when it accused him of meddling with local affairs when he is a resident and a president of the Fisherman's Co-Op.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 04, 2000

Teno reinstates 80MW project

The installation of power plant on Saipan with up to 80-megawatt capacity is now a law, ending months of uncertainties and bickering that have marked the bidding of the much delayed project. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday signed into Public Law 12-1 the bill reinstating the initial plan which the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation scrapped last January despite strong opposition from lawmakers and business leaders.

Chamber prods gov't to build more water catchment

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Lynn Knight yesterday urged the CNMI government to build more water catchment to lessen the island's dependence on water wells. As the planned water testings would entail a huge expense on most businesses, the availability of water reservoir will somehow ease the burden on establishments that were forced to build their own water wells since the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cannot provide adequate supply.

Gov't losing \$5M from underground businesses

The CNMI government is losing about \$5 million in annual taxes from the illegal operation of businesses without proper permit from the business licensing office of the finance department and the alcoholic beverage and tobacco control division of the Department of Commerce. The amount lost each year could be enough to fund the need for more public school teachers or improve school facilities. It is also more than enough to send more local students to college through government scholarship programs.

April 04, 2001

CDA gives CUC ultimatum

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has until next week to come up with a plan of action to deal with its \$100 million delinquent loan or it may face legal action, which could strip the current Board of Directors the power over the government-controlled power firm. This ultimatum was issued last month in light of CUC's apparent persistence in acknowledging demands for payment from its creditor -- the Commonwealth Development Authority.

CNMI sees downpour of foreign investments

Foreign investors are beginning to take notice of the new set of perks offered by the Commonwealth to businessmen who will infuse fresh capital into the Northern Marianas economy under a recently-enacted investments law. Commonwealth Development Authority Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada yesterday disclosed the entry of a Guam-based company which will build a multi-million-dollar entertainment center on Saipan.

Ivy League education for local students

Local students will be presented with the opportunity to attend Ivy League post graduate schools with a fresh education initiative that seeks to establish a financial assistance fund for a doctoral program in key areas of discipline. World-class institutions for higher learning such as the Harvard University, Oxford University, London School of Economics, Sophia University, among others, will be within the reach of Commonwealth scholars if a proposal to institute a Doctoral Scholarship Program will see government approval.

April 04, 2002

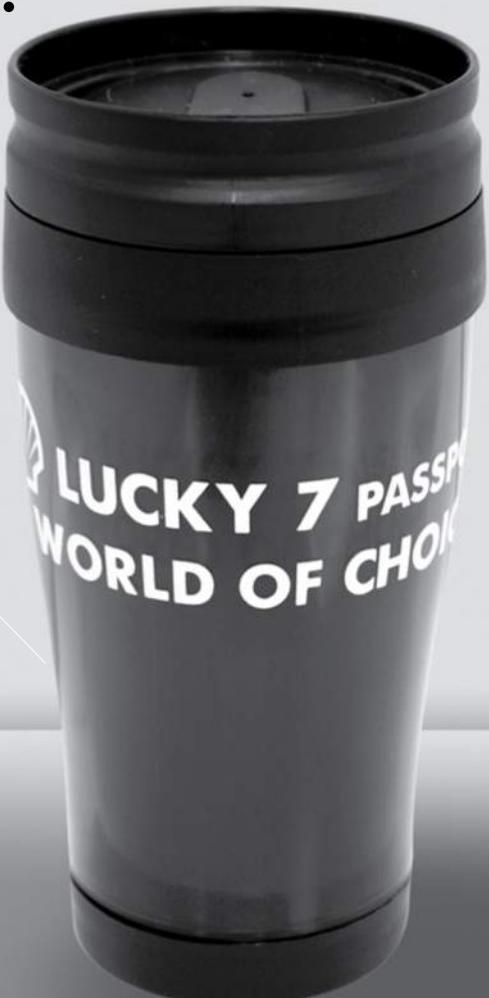
Millions in US grants untapped

Of the possible \$79.44 million in federal grants that were open to the Northern Marianas in 1999, the CNMI government only managed to tap an estimated \$65.45 million, leaving some \$13.99 million in untapped funds. Based on a Federal Grants Review conducted by the Fiscal Planning Services Inc. covering the four U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas and the Virgin Islands—all four territories received a total of \$581.5 million in actual grant awards from the federal government in Fiscal Year 1999.

SGMA paints grim picture for NMI economy in 2005

By 2005, the Commonwealth government is projected to lose significant amount of revenue from the apparel industry as global competition surges due to the elimination of the quota restrictions. Citing the gross economic impact of the quota elimination to the Northern Marianas, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association urged the CNMI government to start instituting changes that would minimize its adverse financial effects.

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**HOUSE SESSION**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta gives his opinion during Wednesday's special House session on Capital Hill. Also in photo is Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb.

**SHIP VISIT**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman 4 and 5th grade students visited the prepositioned ship USNS 1st Lt Harry L. Martin on April 1 and 3. The visit was a continuation of the school visits that started in December last year. The ship's crew provided tours of the bridge, galley and engine room.

**CHRISTENING PARTY**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Christening to Jayden K. Pangelinan, who was welcomed to the Christian world on Saturday, March 29. She is shown here with her older sister, Barbara Felisa, and their loving parents Evita and Luis as they continue their celebration at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

**GOVGUAM-NAVY ACCORD**

Capt. Paul Fuligni, right, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, signs the Masso Cooperative Agreement between the Navy and Government of Guam, as Rear Adm. Bill French, left, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, and Guam Gov. Felix Camacho look on at the Governor's Complex in Adelup March 31. The agreement is a cooperative effort that allows the Navy to provide funding for reforestation of the Masso Reservoir area in Piti. The agreement reflects the Navy's cooperative effort to reduce sediment runoff into the reservoir and protect the island's coral reefs during wharf improvement projects. The Navy will allocate \$235,000 under the Masso Reservoir agreement.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY JESSE LEON GUERRERO

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Zimbabwe solution

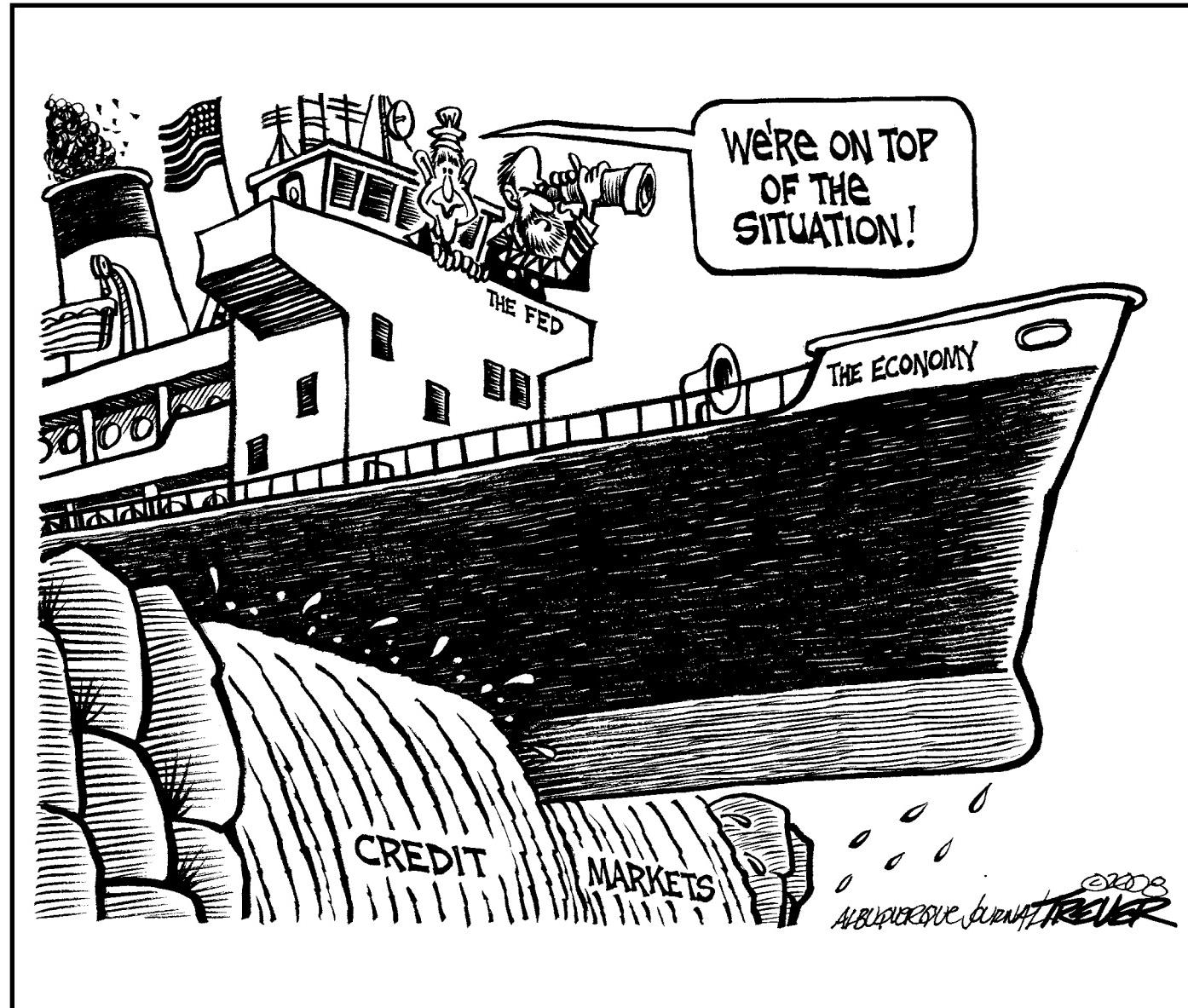
Elections in benighted Zimbabwe have produced three big surprises. The first is that 84-year-old President Robert Mugabe dared to hold them at all. After 28 years in power, Mugabe has beaten a prosperous country into ruin. Once a food exporter, Zimbabwe is hungry, inflation is running at 200,000 percent and rising, unemployment is at 80 percent and life expectancy has plummeted. Even so, most expected Mugabe to succeed in rigging the presidential and parliamentary elections to secure himself another term. The second surprise is that even his iron control of the security forces (and truckloads of food delivered to voters) apparently didn't do the trick. The opposition claims victory. That's plausible, though impossible to verify until the election commission announces final results.

The biggest surprise of all is that Mugabe has not declared himself the winner. Rather, he has reportedly rejected a runoff election, required by the constitution if no candidate garners 51 percent of the vote, as too humiliating. Unconfirmed and sometimes conflicting reports suggest that Mugabe's forces are negotiating with the opposition for a power-sharing agreement that would guarantee the president immunity from prosecution if he retires.

However unseemly the prospect of one of Africa's worst strongmen escaping accountability, Zimbabwe's best hope lies in retiring Mugabe and his entourage to a luxurious villa outside the country; Namibia is often mentioned. But getting him there will require international tact. For the British, in particular, mum's the word. Each time Whitehall condemns Mugabe, it gives him occasion to charge Britain with trying to re-impose colonial imperialism. Instead, the international community could quietly signal that if power-sharing negotiations are occurring, the world will support any peaceful settlement and work with the victors to rebuild the shattered country. If talks fail -- or if no offer of immunity or refuge is forthcoming -- Mugabe might well cling to power and order the military into the streets. Bloodshed could ensue. We've seen this movie before, most recently in Kenya, and the atrocities that followed will haunt that nation for years to come. Zimbabwe is not plagued by Kenya's deep ethnic divisions. There is still time to prevent violence.

In the long run, the only solution to Zimbabwe's agony is good governance. Whether Mugabe departs gracefully or dies in office years from now, Zimbabwe will need international help to end the culture of kleptocracy and to learn from bitter experience how better to govern itself.

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A more transparent Legislature

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a statement the author delivered yesterday, April 3, 2008, at the House of Representatives during her introduction of House Resolution 16-9. The resolution was eventually placed on the calendar.

I have introduced today House Resolution 16-9, which proposes to amend the rules of procedure that govern this body in order to provide the people of the Commonwealth with full and fair notice of House sessions and committee meetings, and improved access to the public records of the Legislature.

If adopted, the new rules would require at least three business days' notice, including agendas, for all regular and special sessions and for all committee meetings of the House. Agendas would not change once notice is issued except by a majority vote of members present and voting, and notice requirements can only be waived under emergency circumstances. In addition, bills, resolutions, committee reports, journals, voting records, financial records, and contact information for all members would be made available as public records on the official website of the Commonwealth Legislature. The Legislative Bureau would be tasked with the responsibility of disseminating public notices of sessions and meetings, and updating and maintaining the Legislature's website.

Colleagues, I regularly receive complaints from citizens about the unreliability of the Legislature, and the lack of transparency in the way business is conducted here. Timely public notices are rarely, if ever, issued for sessions and meetings. Agendas are rarely, if ever, made available, and are constantly changed without notice. Meetings rarely, if ever, start on time, and are routinely rescheduled. Access to public records is limited, and the Legislature's official website is not as informative as it could be, and sometimes unavailable. Sadly, I am often asked if we have adopted such practices deliberately, to discourage public involvement in the legislative process.

While appreciation has been expressed for the website that the Floor Leader has created for House bills, initiatives, and committee reports, and for the meeting notices that I send out via email when I can, the question I am often asked is, "Why doesn't the Legislature inform the public about its meetings and make its records more readily available as a matter of institutional policy?"

House Resolution 16-9 is an attempt to begin to institutionalize a policy of improved transparency in the Legislature that will, in turn, help improve the legislative process and encourage more thoughtful deliberation of any action we take. We start with ourselves, in the 16th House of Representatives, and then we challenge our colleagues in the Senate to follow suit, and set

By TINA SABLAM

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a congresswoman in the 16th House of Representatives.



an example for future lawmakers to follow.

I realize that changes in the House rules may not seem like such a significant and pressing issue to some of us at this time, especially considering the dire fiscal, economic, social, and infrastructural crises that we face. But I earnestly submit that it is precisely because of our grim situation and the deepening anxieties of our people that measures to stabilize the legislative process and make it more open to the public have become more imperative than ever. People want to know what we are doing in the Legislature to improve their quality of life, and they want to participate in solutions. They also want reassurance that we are cognizant of their suffering, that we have our priorities straight, and that we are focused on issues that matter to them. Stability and transparency make good economic sense, too: businesses thrive in communities with responsible, trustworthy, and accountable governments.

Colleagues, we will not be able to solve the utilities crisis, or retire the deficit, or pass a balanced budget, or turn the economy around today. We will not be able to rescue the college from its accreditation woes, or improve the quality of healthcare for our people today. These things will take time, careful planning, and great effort, and there will forces beyond our control with which to contend.

But what we can do today, what is simple, feasible, and well within our control, is to adopt rules that will give our people notice for when we meet and improved access to legislative records. Yes, these new rules will take some adjustment, and we will have to work a little harder to plan our meetings and make information more available to our people. But we are, after all, public servants, and the Legislature belongs, not to us, but to the people we represent. If we adopt these new rules—and most importantly, if we consistently honor them and do not suspend them in practice—we would be providing a great public service, and infusing the legislative process with a measure of credibility, transparency, and stability that can set the Commonwealth on a course towards better governance.

I respectfully request your support for House Resolution 16-9.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Choices in life

A career bromide as worn as the steps to the Nauru Building goes like so: Do what you like to do, young man, and then your work won't seem like work, life will be happy and, fortuitously, the money will flow into your pockets.

I guess the theory behind this theory is that if you like what you do, you'll be good at it, hence well compensated for it, hence better compensated than you'd be in alternative pursuits.

There are a lot of logical leaps in that chain. If just one link of logic breaks, the whole idea falls apart.

It's a bigger issue on Saipan than most places. Paradise attracts adventurers, free thinkers, entrepreneurs, and other hardy escapees from the confines of cubicles. Sure, the Commonwealth does have a few bores, but they're usually whining in their own little echo chambers and nobody else pays much attention to them.

But for the most part there are a lot of people in the CNMI who are very well-qualified to discuss the "do what you like" adventure of professional paths.

But don't look to me for an answer. I'm still puzzling it out. I'm always wondering if I should have been going out on limbs when my more sensible pals were heeding the wisdom from the great poet Robert Service: "It's the steady, quiet, plodding ones who win in the life long race."

Service should know. He left England to follow his dream of being a cowboy in the wild outback of British Columbia.

And he wound up being a bank clerk.

Well, bank clerk for a while, at least. Then he became a rich and famous poet, penning (and, more importantly, selling) verses inspired by the adventures and adventurers he saw all around him.

What would have become of him had he not taken his bank job, and instead rode his doomed cowboy dream into the mud, and lived, and died, in failed obscurity, as is the lot of most dreamers? It's a safe bet that getting a day job is what allowed him to become a literary superstar. On the other hand, had he not followed his audacious and risky dream to British Columbia to begin with, he may likely have still languished in obscu-

By ED STEPHENS

*Ed's column runs every Friday.
Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com.*



rity. So I can't untie this knot, it seems to both uphold, and pull apart, its own logic.

I think the best we can do is observe that he seems to have played his cards as best as he could at the time, and did a darned good job of it. He was obviously a man willing to take risks and bet his fate on the outcome, which is more than most people are willing to do.

From what I've seen, it is the steady, quiet, plodding ones who wind up on top, yet this doesn't mean that they are drones at all. The happiest folks I know have used their professional credentials to create independent gigs: Doctors, dentists, and lawyers, typically, who don't have to work for somebody else as wage slaves. They can set up their own practices as they see fit. They can live in big cities, or in small towns, or even (yes!) on remote tropical islands.

■ ■ ■

So let's turn from the mush of reflection to something quantitative, which illustrates the difficulty of making seemingly easy choices in life. Consider a game of chance that a player gets to play only once, and then he has to walk away from the table for good. Here is the game, in which only one of two choices can be made by the player:

Choice 1 is a coin toss, in which the player gets \$1 million if it's heads, but no money at all if it's tails.

Choice 2 is even simpler: The player gets a briefcase containing \$300,000.

Which would a "rational" person choose? And which would you choose? Which would your spouse choose?

As for my answer, I'll give it to you next week.

Fear causes blindness

By DAVID KHORRAM

Special to the Saipan Tribune



David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.Marianas-Eye.com, or leave comments at www.Marianas-Eye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

Diabetes remains a devastating disease in the CNMI. Unfortunately, I'm seeing more and more people whose eyes are affected by it, and lose their vision. I would like to spend some time in the next several columns discussing some of the issues related to diabetic blindness. You may not have diabetes, but chances are that someone you love and care about does. By understanding the issues surrounding diabetic eye disease, you can help them keep their sight. So this is important information for most of us here in the CNMI. Let's get started.

Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness in the developed world. I'm not talking about places where there are no medications, no doctors, no treatments available. I'm talking about places like this, where you live. Sometimes, blindness from diabetes is unavoidable. It can happen despite the best care. But what is truly tragic is the blindness that happens to people is unnecessary. In those tragic cases, it happens because people don't get the care they need. The care is available, and accessible to them, but they are held back from getting the care by fear.

If you have diabetes, the fact that you are reading this tells me you're interested in saving your sight. My job is to help you get the care you need. In my experience, the number one cause of blindness in diabetes is fear. We all have a fear of the unknown. You may wonder, what will the doctor tell me? What will the exam be like? What if the doctor recommends a treatment I've never heard of? In addition to fear of the unknown, we also have a fear of being sick. You may not want to know that your eyes are sick. You may notice your vision getting worse, but you're afraid to find out why. You don't want to be told your eyes are getting damaged, or that your vision is getting worse, or that you have a new complication of diabetes to deal with in your life.

All of these are real fears, and my patients share them with me every day. But it is these fears that cause many to avoid the care and treatment they need, and to ultimately go blind. I hope you're not one of these people. I hope that I can remove those fears for you, and help you preserve your vision for your entire lifetime. I can't promise you that diabetes won't take your sight. But I help you improve your chances of keeping your vision with a few simple steps. But first, we must conquer your fear.

Next time, we'll look a little more closely at your fears.

Long term residency

During the 1980s, the CNMI had a long term residency law in effect. Which was promptly changed. Via repeal by the CNMI Legislature.

Now these same longtime CNMI politicos urge those so long wholly disenfranchised by the CNMI's laws and policies—those being the overwhelming majority of the CNMI private sector workforce, labeled CNMI "nonresident" workers despite years of de facto CNMI presence—to consider a newly proposed CNMI "long-term-resident" laws of some type?

These of course the same CNMI politicos who, in wholesale disregard and utter contempt for CNMI constituents, have over the decades enacted-then-repealed, enacted-then-ignored, and enacted-without-enforcement CNMI laws time and again. As to minimum wage. As to fair labor standards. As to workers' rights. As to immigration. As to retirement fund obligations. As to fuel surcharges. As to gambling. As to garments. Ad nauseam.

Knowing as we all do that longtime CNMI politicos change their laws significantly more often than their underwear—once a week at minimum it seems in less severe cases—how can these longtime CNMI politicos now expect the disenfranchised but intelligent masses to now rely, with any sense of good faith or common sense or reasonable expectation of fairness, on any CNMI legislation as to "long-term resident status"? Or CNMI legislation as to any other matter affecting these workers' human rights, dignity, equality, or well-being?

These workers know better. The kindhearted CNMI general public knows better. It seems that the few who don't know better are... well, these same CNMI politicos.

Bruce L. Jorgensen

Santiago, Chile

Letters to the Editor

Wanted: An advocate for Article 12 and 18

I am in total disagreement with the governor's legal counsel's personal opinion on Article XII as expressed recently in our media. I wish to respectfully offer clarification to enlighten Howard P. Willens and the *people* of the Commonwealth about counsel's solemn responsibility and obligation as a freelance and paid lawyer for the governor to faithfully and not be wish-washy in upholding the sanctity of the Covenant and the application provisions of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

As a government legal adviser for the Commonwealth, you are ethically duty bound to protect and defend vigorously the Covenant and the Constitution of the Commonwealth, like you used to do, and not to be guided by your lofty wisdom of reversed liberalism against your own client. You need not be reminded that you were once the legal adviser for the United States Government during the Covenant negotiation and an architect and chief proponent of the resulting provisions incorporated in the Covenant and the subsequent inclusion of the same in the NMI Constitution. This is not the same Howard P. Willens I used to know when we were drafting my proposal on Article 12 during the 1st Constitutional Convention. You courageously defended Article 12, with no expression of what you now sing with a new melody and new title "to be unconstitutional."

As an adviser in similar capacity for the Commonwealth government and specifically the governor, we expect nothing less than for you, Mr. Willens, to be an advocate of and for our Covenant and the NMI Constitution-persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent, and not to be now beholden to the very conundrum which led to be inclusion of this provision then in protecting against the alienation of real property, in order that the acquisition of such interests in real property is restricted to persons of Northern Marianas Islands decent.

Section 805 of the Covenant clearly states that "notwithstanding" the other provisions of this Covenant, or those provisions of the (U.S.) Constitution, treatises or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the ownership of land for the culture and tradition of the *people* (underscored) of the Northern Islands, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency: (a) *will* (underscored) until twenty-five years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and *may* (underscored) thereafter, regulate

(underscored) the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict (underscored) the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent (underscored); and (b) *may* (underscored) regulate the extent to which a person may own or hold land which is now public land.

The intent of this specific provision of the Covenant was naturally embraced and manifestly incorporated in the NMI Constitution in 1978, of which I was instrumental and privileged to have been blessed with the duty and honor to faithfully uphold my solemn oath in the first Constitutional Convention when I introduced Article XII on land alienation which unambiguously comports with Section 805 of the Covenant.

Article XVIII Section 5 (c), a new subsection added by Senate Legislative Initiative 11-1 in 1999, provides: "In the case of a proposed amendment to Article XII of this Constitution, the word 'voters' as used in subsection 5(a) above shall be limited to eligible voters under Article VII who are also (underscored) persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article XII, Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters."

I like to call upon the Legislature, the Municipal Council and in particular the Board of Election, not to take the personal opinion of Mr. Howard P. Willens, on Article XII as final. I like to suggest to continue the registration on NMD and any disagreement, let them challenge through "Article IV, Section 11 of our Constitution on "Certified Legal Question".

I also like to remind you that Article VIII, Section 805(a) of the Covenant is a facet of a United States Public Law 94-241, which was also adopted by Joint Resolution by the 94th United States Congress and the product of a Presidential Proclamation No. 4534.

On behalf of the people of Saipan, I thank you for your personal attention to and interest in this issue of great importance to the people for whom the Covenant was dedicated to when it was signed by the Covenant negotiators and acceded to by the United States government as a United States Public Law 94-24, having been adopted by Joint Resolution by the 94th United States Congress; and elevated to a Presidential Proclamation No. 4534 by United States President Jimmy Carter.

Felipe Q. Atalig

Member, Saipan Municipal Council

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲82° ▼75°	▲83° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Ccloudy	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲90 ▼81
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲72 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲75 ▼46
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲76 ▼69
London	Cloudy	▲57 ▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Manila	Cloudy	▲91 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼72
New York	Rain	▲56 ▼49
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼41
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼44
Pusan	Sunny	▲65 ▼45
Rome	Cloudy	▲58 ▼42
Salem	Showers	▲55 ▼38
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼39
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
12:06AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
6:32AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
12:42PM Today	Low Tide: 0.6 Feet
6:24PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:10AM	6:30PM	Today
Saturday	6:10AM	6:30PM	Saturday
Sunday	6:09AM	6:30PM	Sunday
Monday	6:08AM	6:30PM	Monday
Tuesday	6:08AM	6:30PM	Tuesday

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.

The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily

CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota

CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7

CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily

CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily

NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Koror

CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6

CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror

CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily

PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Letters to the Editor**Teachers, legalities and ‘it’s all good’**

I want to thank the Supreme Court for their effort to try and assist teachers. But those who are celebrating need to stop and realize the problem still exists, which is nothing to cheer about. Teachers still have a problem but we made progress even though the court clearly and justifiably explained how the questions did not meet the test for a court decision and I agree with their decision. In the simplest of terms, we (Mr. Benavente and I) were in agreement that the board didn't have a dispute; it was the selection of the Teacher Rep that was being disputed. It was established once and for all when I was elected that the Board of Education has nothing to do with the Teacher Rep appointment. We were trying to get the court to resolve a dispute among teachers and teachers' dispute with the Governor, which we can't do by law.

The admission that the Board and Teacher Rep were not in dispute over the Teacher Rep selection in essence disqualified the questions from being addressed because the primary issue was the Teacher Rep selection. There is also the fact that the Governor, the teacher group (ACT) was connected to the questions but they were not qualified petitioners. While the Governor could have been included in the dispute, we didn't ask him to sign off on the petition, while the teacher group has no standing because ACT is not governed by Commonwealth officials and cannot be included in the certified questions to the Supreme Court. ACT cannot submit certified questions to generate a binding decision by the court nor could the court "bind" the governor to a decision when he never committed to the questions being submitted. There is also the fact that some of the questions need to be put to the Board by the teachers first with a formal response that is disputed by teachers for a legal dispute to be declared, which is why I'm resubmitting the questions to the Board and Governor. I

learned a lot and I have no complaints because the court did an excellent job explaining their decision.

However, there is still hope for teachers, as the questions are legitimate and obviously need to be answered. To that end, I will now divide the questions between the Governor's Office and the Board of Education for their legal opinions, which will still provide teachers, the Governor and the Board with answers and a solution. If the teachers are not happy with the opinions or lack of opinions from the Governor and Board, they will have established their justification to declare an official dispute through the Teacher Rep. I have listed the questions that I will submit for a resolution. The best thing teachers can do at this point is to find one HQ Teacher, not an administrator, to meet the qualifications. The teacher must meet the criteria established by the previous Governor, as it is the only official criteria established (PRAXIS-certified teacher, five years of teaching in the system and 50 signatures of support from teachers if there is more than one candidate for election purposes). If the Board and Governor truly care about teachers they will answer these hard questions for teachers:

■ **Board of Education:** The Constitutional Amendment requires an "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers." What qualifies a group of teachers to be considered the "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within PSS"?

■ **Board of Education:** In the absence of a non-profit organization with a majority of teachers as members or a union, will an exclusive bargaining group of teachers that have been selected by teachers at the school level to represent teachers at each school collectively fulfill the constitutional requirement to be recognized as a collective to constitute the exclusive bargaining represen-

tative of teachers within the Public School System?

■ **Board of Education:** Is the Board of Education required to bargain with the Teacher Representative?

■ **Board of Education:** Will an administrator have a conflict of interest representing teachers as the Board of Education Teacher Rep?

■ **Governor:** What is the Governor's role in the selection process in the absence of a recognized exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Public School System?

■ **Governor:** Who is responsible for conducting the selection process in the absence of an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers?

■ **Governor:** Can the Election Commission be solicited by Executive Order to conduct an election for teachers until an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Public School System can be established and recognized?

I was saving the best for last because there was still something good that came out of the court's decision that I'm sure most people didn't see because they only saw a rejection by the court. But something truly great did happen because we now have an established precedent for the BOE Teacher Rep and the Board of Education to submit their disputes through questions to the court. I don't have to tell anyone how much this would have helped when I was fighting with the Board over teacher rights to bargain. In fact, the next BOE Teacher Rep will be in a position to

follow up on the questions I submitted to the Board and to work with the Board should the Board refuse to respond or if the Board's response is contested by teachers.

Teacher now have a legal method to remedy their disputes with the Board through their Teacher Representative. So it's all good and all hope is not lost by any means, just delayed. But to achieve anything, teachers must come together and stay the course to bargain with PSS if teachers truly want to have a real voice in the educational system and have some say in their destiny as a PSS employee. I will continue to contest any administrator representing me as a teacher because I know it's a direct conflict of interest. But for now, I have done all I can do to help teachers and the matter is now in the hands of teachers, the

Board, and the Governor to "do the right thing."

On a final note: I fully expected the celebration by ACT after the court's decision but their response should be clear proof that the organization never wanted a proper and legal opinion to resolve this matter, which is what they feared most—doing the right thing. I also want to thank the *Saipan Tribune* for printing my full response and to apologize to Chief Justice Demapan for the letter in the *Variety* that I asked them not to print because I had received the court's response but they published it anyway, using your name for the title, which was not my intent. I hope Your Honor will excuse their sensationalism.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former Teacher
Representative

Carmen Safeway
SUPERMARKET
OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)
WE WELCOME WIC FOOD INSTRUMENT AND NAP FOOD STAMPS

Spring APPreciation Sale

This is a black and white promotional flyer for Carmen Safeway Supermarket. At the top left, a starburst shape contains the text "APRIL 4-7, 2008". On the right side, a diagonal banner reads "NEW ARRIVAL! JAPAN FOOD / GROCERIES PREMIUM BEERS". The main title "Spring APPreciation Sale" is written in large, stylized letters across the center. Below the title are four circular promotional boxes for meat items: "Chicken Quarter Leg 33# \$22.99", "Beef Spareribs 20# \$17.99", "Sunland Chicken Whole 30# \$34.99", and "Turkey Wings \$27.99". Below these are two sections: "Grocery" and "Frozen". The "Grocery" section features products like Ichiban Tuna (6.5 oz) for 80¢, Libby's Corned Beef (12 oz) for \$1.69, Charmin Toilet Tissue (24 Roll) for \$8.99, Folgers Coffee (39 oz) for \$6.74, Minoru Rice (50#) for \$23.99, Pork Bellie (Whole) for \$1.89, Smoke Picnic Ham for \$1.79, and Mackarel Fillet (Salted) for \$4.99. The "Frozen" section features Beef Ribeye Steak ('CML') for \$3.79/lb., Beef Shortribs Bone-In ('CML') for \$2.29/lb., and other frozen items. At the bottom, there are sections for "Produce" (Fuji Apple for \$1.35/lb., Potato Brown for 65¢/lb., US Yellow Onion for 47¢/lb., Garlic Netted for \$1.16/lb.) and "The Liquor Shoppe" (French Bread for \$1.50, Pullman Bread White for \$1.60, Butter Roll for \$1.60, Bud/Budlight 24/12 oz. (Warm) for \$22.99/cs., McCormick Vodka 750 ml. for \$9.89, Freixenet Carta Nevada for \$10.79, Santa Digna Sauv Blanc 750 ml. for \$8.90). The bottom of the page includes the store address "Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm" and a note "While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Foodstamp Shoppers Welcome • We are not responsible for typographical errors."

Kudos to smokeless businesses!

I agree with Mr. Carroll that smokers may have the right to ruin their own health with tobacco but they have no right to inflict secondhand smoking harm to families, friends and the general public. I know many others in the community feel the same way. Hear, hear! And thank you to the progressive businesses that are going smokeless. You can count on my business.

If Guam, who gets more of the Asian "smoking" tourist, can successfully prosper with the ban, so can we! One place I frequently have to subject myself and my daughter to secondhand smoke is at the San Antonio Labor building. Every time we go to file papers, pay for fees etc, we have to pass through a cloud of smokers smoking inside the building right at the stairs. Why are they smoking inside the building!? Just because it is not air-conditioned? I think that is another reason we need the smoking ban in PUBLIC places.

Leila Staffler
Kagman II

SHRM awards Juanet Sablan with scholarship plum

Juanet Santos Sablan was awarded the Undergraduate Human Resources Scholarship by the Society for Human Resource Management – Hawaii Chapter on Monday, March 9, 2008, at the Hawaii Pacific University's 25th Annual Honors Banquet.

The award was presented by Linda Kawamura, vice president of Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Office for the HPU.

In her congratulatory message to Sablan, Kawamura said, "Congratulations to Juanet Sablan for winning the Hawaii Pacific University Undergraduate Human Resources Scholarship sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management Oahu Educational Foundation. Juanet is originally from Saipan and is cur-

rently a junior at HPU pursuing a bachelor's degree in Human Resources Development. She currently holds a GPA of 3.85 and is to be the 2008 President of the SHRM Lokahi Student Chapter at HPU. Congratulations to Juanet for earning this prestigious scholarship."

Sablan was one of two HR honorees recognized and awarded that evening. Cheryl Hoang, the outgoing president of the SHRM Lokahi Student Chapter at HPU, received the Graduate HR Scholarship.

Witnessing the presentation of awards were Juanet's grandparents, Nicolas and Hilaria Santos.

Sablan, also a member in the National Society for Human Resource Management, will be attending the 2008 SHRM Pacific West Regional



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Linda Tran, adviser for SHRM Student Chapter; Juanet S. Sablan, Undergraduate Scholarship awardee and incoming SHRM Student Chapter president; Cheryl Hoang, Graduate Scholarship awardee and outgoing SHRM Student Chapter president; and Linda Kawamura, associate vice president of Human Resources & Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officer for HPU.

Student Conference to be held at the California State University Long Beach on April 4-5, 2008, where she will receive her briefing as the new Student Chapter president. She will also have the opportunity to network with other HR students and HR professional as well as participate in the HRGames academic competition. Sablan garnered first place for HPU in the Hawaii HR Games.

Sablan, daughter of Nicolas D. and Maggie S. Sablan, graduated high school in 2005 as the salutatorian from Mount Carmel School. She was inspired to pursue her education in the Human Resources field by her mother, the HR Manager for Fiesta Resort Saipan, then the 2005 SHRM President for the CNMI Chapter; and her grandfather, Nick Baza Santos, whose

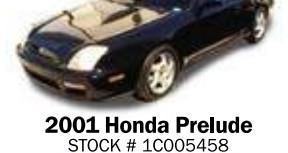
life-career was in Personnel Management—over 30 years in Government Personnel and six years as the HR Manager for MTC and Verizon.

Sablan, now finishing her third year at HPU, was also inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, which recognizes and promotes superior scholarship and those elements of outstanding character among students. Membership to this Society is limited to 10 percent of the junior and senior classes and represents the highest academic honor on any member campus.

Sablan thanked the SHRM-CNMI Chapter Scholarship Committee and the Joeten Scholarship Foundation for their scholarship award in 2005. She also thanked the CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA offices for their continued advocacy for scholarship funds for students on-island and abroad.

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DEALS OF THE WEEK

 <p>2004 Ford Ranger Edge 4x4 STOCK # 4PB43676 \$16,995.00*</p>	 <p>2004 Nissan Sentra STOCK # 4L907185 \$11,995.00*</p>	 <p>2005 Kia Rio STOCK # 56395736 \$9,995.00*</p>
 <p>2005 Ford Ranger STOCK # 5PA78255 \$12,995.00*</p>	 <p>2001 Kia Sephia STOCK # 15088249 \$3,495.00</p>	 <p>2002 Toyota RAV4 STOCK # 26057031 \$12,995.00*</p>
 <p>2004 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab STOCK # 4C453038 \$16,995.00*</p>	 <p>2001 Honda Prelude STOCK # 1C005458 \$6,995.00</p>	 <p>2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 STOCK # 4UC14321 \$15,995.00*</p>
 <p>2005 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab 4x4 STOCK # 5C430810 \$23,995.00*</p>	 <p>2003 Kia Rio STOCK # 36280243 \$6,995.00*</p>	 <p>2005 Honda CR-V EX AWD STOCK # 5C330370 \$19,995.00*</p>
 <p>Joseph (Jay) Cabrera Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562</p>	 <p>2004 Honda Civic DX STOCK # 4H606499 \$12,995.00*</p>	 <p>2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4 STOCK # 5C702102 \$22,995.00*</p>

**SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562**

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0022-50/53** will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway "A", demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway "A" into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsible or responsive", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid proposal price of the Phase 1 total construction amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Lee C. Cabrera
Acting Executive Director

Date: February 29, 2008

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AND SANDALS



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Full
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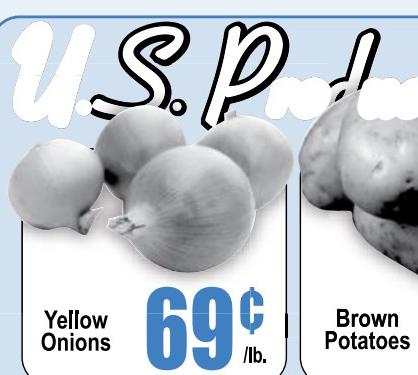
Matelasse
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\$10.99



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\$6.99



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Yellow
Onions
69¢



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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Auto, Beige
Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
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\$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS							
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	14,999
GM CARS							
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	7,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899
R08-004F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO		AQUA	ACB-234	8,299
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999
LEXUS							
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,599
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,599
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
SPORT UTILITY							
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		12,599

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2x4x14	\$5.50/Pc	\$4.30/Pc
2x4x16	\$6.10/Pc	\$5.75/Pc
2x4x18	\$6.90/Pc	\$6.30/Pc
2x4x20	\$7.40/Pc	\$6.90/Pc

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
 from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

Plyform (5/8"):

Red/Black-\$24.90 - Phenolic Black-\$26.90

Thin-Set Mortar:

\$9.80 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S.
 \$8.80 Nicbond, 55lbs/bag

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4"	\$0.50/pc
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 Roof tin 15% off
 Shower room 35% off
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Palau leader briefly stranded in Manila

By TERESA CEROJANO
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The commercial flight was scheduled to take off at 9:45 p.m. (1345 GMT) but left shortly after midnight without Remengasau. At least three Palau ministers and the head of the country's senate boarded the flight after being frisked, Rechebei said.

About an hour after take off, authorities received the bomb threat and the flight had to return to the airport, said Senior Superintendent Efren Labiang, director of police aviation security group. Inspection of the aircraft and passengers showed no bomb, he added.

The airport control tower said it received a call from the air force, saying it had an intelligence report that a bomb might be on board the plane.

The flight, with 129 passengers on board, finally left at 4:35 a.m. Thursday, Labiang said.

Rechebei said the Palau officials on board decided to stay behind when the plane returned to Manila and would take the private plane with Remengasau.

Earlier Wednesday, Remengasau and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo witnessed the signing of four agreements between their countries on air services, medical tourism, education and telecommunications.

The two leaders also sought each other's cooperation on facing challenges like terrorism, climate change and rising oil and food prices.

Palau, an island chain of about 200 islands, only eight of which are permanently inhabited with a total of about 20,000 people, is about 800 miles (1,287 kilometers) southwest of Guam and 500 miles (805 kilometers) east of the Philippines.

9 Saipan beaches assigned red flags

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on nine beach sites on Saipan and is warning the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Hafa Adai Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drainage, and Sugar Dock.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

HANMI touts prizes, sponsors for golf tourney

Joeten Motors is offering a Red Yamaha 650 motorcycle, Star Water is giving away free water for a year and Century Tours is providing a round-trip ticket to Shanghai or Beijing to any player who shoots a hole-in-one at selected holes during the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament this Saturday, April 5.

In addition to these prizes, JASTA and Tan Holdings Corp. are also sponsoring cash for various prizes. All in all, there are more than 75 gift prizes, and more than \$8,500 in cash and trophies that are guaranteed to be won this Saturday to golfers and raffle winners.

Additionally, the winner of each flight will receive one-

month free golf play courtesy of Marianas Country Club.

According to the HANMI organizing committee, every hole is now sponsored for the event, which will be held at Marianas Country Club this Saturday, April 5, 2008. Show time will be 6am with a 7:30am start for this exciting tournament.

At 6pm, also on Saturday,

there will be an evening banquet featuring dishes prepared by each of the HANMI member hotels at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

"This is a banquet players won't want to miss. As is our tradition, we have more raffle prizes this year than ever, including international trips and prizes from our hotel members

and a wide variety of sponsoring businesses," said HANMI chair Lynn Knight.

The fee for this year's tournament is now \$110 per person through game day, inclusive of greens fees, prizes and the awards banquet. Additional banquet guests are \$20 per person. Entry forms are available at Century Hotel and Marianas Country Club.

This fundraising event is the premier charity golf tournament of the first quarter 2008. The Hotel Association hosts this annual event to raise awareness for and about the hospitality industry within the local community.

HANMI was established on Aug. 29, 1985, to represent the hospitality industry in the CNMI. (HANMI)



MOVING ON AND UP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicole Manglona Torres, daughter of William S. Torres and Priscilla M. Torres, has been accepted to the Summer Pre-Law Program at the University of Nebraska College of Law this summer. The monthlong summer pre-law program is designed to prepare students for both law school and the application process; expose them to a broad cross-section of the legal community; inform them about the breadth and power of the law and a legal career; and establish individualized mentoring relationships. Torres is a 2006 graduate of Grace Christian Academy and is currently a sophomore at University of San Francisco.

A Hawaii national treasure may soon go international

First it became a national monument. Now it's on the short list to become an international treasure.

The Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, otherwise known as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, has been nominated by the U.S. for the World Heritage List, which recognizes the most significant cultural and natural sites on the planet.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is already on the list. So are the Grand Canyon, Russia's Lake Baikal and the Great Barrier Reef.

Making the list would be a fitting honor for the world's largest marine conservation area, which covers 137,792 square miles and is home to more than 7,000 marine species, including the endangered monk seal.

The monument is also a prized resource for research, not only for the unique sea life among

its thriving coral reefs but for its historical significance: as a home to ancient Hawaiians and in later history, host to whalers, explorers and world war, including the Battle of Midway.

But honors are no guarantee of protection against environmental degradation.

Among other threats, Papahanaumokuakea sits just south of a vast plume of ocean debris, including abandoned nets that entangle wildlife and small pieces of plastic that birds and fish mistake for food. Protecting this preserve will mean changing habits of consumption and waste disposal that extend far beyond the monument's boundaries.

Perhaps that's the most encouraging news behind the possibility of being named a World Heritage Site. It would become a treasure for the world, and the world's responsibility to help protect. (*Honolulu Advertiser*)

Contestants sought for 'Marianas Idol' contest

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is seeking CNMI singing superstars to compete in the highly-anticipated "Marianas Idol IV," which will be held at the Charter Day Celebration next week Friday, April 11, 2008.

Auditions will be held at the NMC Student Center (Building J) on Thursday, April 10, 2008, at 6pm. The top finalists will showcase their singing talent and skills the very next evening at the Charter Day Celebration.

In addition to the Marianas Idol competition, the Northern Marianas College Charter Day Festivities will also feature performances from Saipan Grand Hotel's Zynergy, Reggae Band Burning Bush, and many other performances. Additionally,

there will be several booths featuring various delicacies for sale and games to enjoy.

For more information about the Marianas Idol competition, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or e-mail queannas@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

7th ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Marianas Country Club

Show Time 6:30 a.m. / Shotgun Start 7:30 a.m.

Entry forms: Available at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel and HANMI members.

Tournament Fee: \$99.00 / \$110 after April 1 inclusive of Green Fee, Prizes, Awards, Banquet

Maximum entries: 144 players

Additional banquet guests \$20 per person

PRIZES <small>CHAMPIONSHIP, SENIORS, A, B & C FLIGHTS</small> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">First Place:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Place:</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Place:</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladies Double Peoria : 1st</td> <td>\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> </table>	First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy	Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy	Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy	Ladies Double Peoria : 1st	\$500.00 plus trophy	2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy	3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy	FLIGHT CATEGORIES <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Championship</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A - Flight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B - Flight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C - Flight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seniors (Age 50+)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladies</td> </tr> </table>	Championship	A - Flight	B - Flight	C - Flight	Seniors (Age 50+)	Ladies
First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy																		
Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy																		
Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy																		
Ladies Double Peoria : 1st	\$500.00 plus trophy																		
2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy																		
3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy																		
Championship																			
A - Flight																			
B - Flight																			
C - Flight																			
Seniors (Age 50+)																			
Ladies																			

All those who do not win a flight, you'll be entered into double perioia for a chance to win a free trip

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HOLE IN ONE!

#6, #8, #12, #16

Sign up today at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel or through HANMI members!

Winner of each flight gets 1 month free golf play courtesy of Marianas County Club!

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber scholarship materials now online
 The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund information and application materials are now available at www.saipanchamber.com, as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

This year, the Chamber will award six \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Saipan high school seniors. To download complete eligibility requirements and application materials, visit the Chamber's website.

Applications are due at the Chamber office by 5pm, Friday, April 18, 2008 and scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 4, 2008. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at info@saipanchamber.com or 233-7150. (SCC)

WSR Elementary School April 2008 Events

- April 2—Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5pm, WSR Library
- April 3—3rd Quarter Report Card Day, 2:30pm-4:30pm (un-

less scheduled by appointment)

- April 5—Academic Challenge Bee
- April 7—Flag Ceremony, 8am, new stage
- April 7-11—Registration for incoming WSRES 6th Grade Students
- April 9—PTSA meeting, 6pm, cafeteria
- April 11—3rd Quarter Award Ceremony
- April 12—CNMI American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon
- April 12—Islandwide Science Fair, MHS
- April 14-18—Registration for incoming WSRES 5th Grade

Students

- April 15—NJHS meeting, 2:30pm, Room G-2
- April 15—STUCO meeting, 2:30pm, Room D-5
- April 21-25—SAT10 Testing (for 3rd, 5th, 6th Grade Students)
- April 21-25—Registration for incoming WSRES 4th Grade Students
- April 26—Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Academic Challenge Bee
- April 28-May 2—Registration for incoming WSRES 3rd Grade Students
- April 30—Parent Advisory

Council meeting, 5pm, WSR Library

- April 30—Mid-Progress Reports
- April 30—Half-Day (students released at 12pm)—Due to Teacher Training

WSR Elementary School's library is open to the community Monday through Fridays from 2:30pm through 7pm. Additionally, the library is open on Saturdays for the Saturday Reading Program. All students are welcome to participate. (8am-10am/10am-12pm) Students can only participate on one session.

Registration for ongoing WSRES 2nd grade students will be from Monday, May 5-9 and for ongoing 1st grade students from Monday-Friday, May 12-16. Open Registration (Kindergarten and all other grades will begin on June 9. (PR)

Reunion meeting for Kueto clan

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano that there will be a reunion meeting in preparation for the upcoming 2008 "Kueto Clan" Reunion.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at the residence of Gus and Oly Aldan in Chalan Kanoa District #2, at 6pm. Family members are urged to attend this important meeting.

For more information, contact Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-5974. (PR)

MHS Class of '88 meeting

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 will be a meeting again on Thursday, April 10, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda

in As Lito, behind Saipan International School, at 6:30pm.

Reunion day is just around the corner. For this reason all classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

Hopwood upcoming events

- April 4—Half-day schedule. Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm. Issuing of 3rd Quarter report card will be from 2:30pm to 5:30pm
- April 10—PTSA meeting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Topic: Promotion and Accreditation
- April 14-18—Testing days for the SAT 10. Students' attendance is important for these testing dates

- May 4,5,6—Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged
- May 19 - 20—8th Grade Final Exams
- May 28—8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

MHS Calendar of Events

- April 21-25, SAT10 Tests
- May 1-16—Advanced Placement Tests
- May 12-16—Standards-Based Assessment Tests
- May 26—No classes (Memorial Day)
- May 31—MHS Commencement Ceremony
- June 3—Fourth Quarter ends

OES PTSA meeting next week

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting next Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. (PR)

Charter Day Committee extends deadline for vendors

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the upcoming Charter Day celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc). The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces has been extended to this Friday, April 4, 2008. The Charter Day Celebration will be held on April 11, 2008 at the As Terlaje Campus from 3pm. to 10pm.

Reserve booth space by paying the \$100 one-time fee (which covers the tents booth and access to 110v electricity outlets). Contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email queannas@nmnnet.edu if you have any questions. (NMC)

Join the movement to protect our islands' natural resources.



Do your part by helping to reduce the use of plastic bags. It's simple and easy to use cloth bags! And you can be a winner!

Bring your own bag when shopping at any Joeten Store or Carmen Safeway and you will receive a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate.



Plastic bags can last for hundreds of years and many shoppers use 3 or more for their groceries. It's a major environmental problem when plastic bags end up in our marine waters that eventually lead to the suffocation of marine mammals and sea birds. On land, plastic bag litter can block drains and trap birds. They also kill livestock. Plastic bags are also commonly found in nearly all beaches on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The bags end up in landfills and emit harmful greenhouse gases.

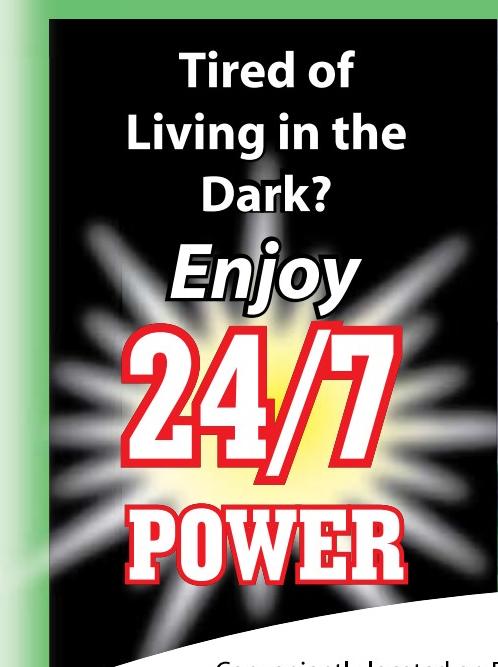
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Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 1 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
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After 27 years, policeman's duty still calls

By TERESA WATANABE
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LOS ANGELES—Maybe it was memories from the murdered woman's bracelet. Or maybe it was her father's anguished plea for justice.

Certainly it was the Japanese values of "bushido," the samurai code that promotes a fierce sense of duty and obligation, honesty and fidelity to self, to truth, to endurance.

Veteran Los Angeles County lawman Jimmy Sakoda mentions all of this in trying to explain why he has pursued a murder case for 27 years, a relentless quest that has produced comparisons to the lingering mystery of the still-unresolved Black Dahlia homicide.

The case of who killed Kazumi Miura on a Los Angeles street, has haunted and shaped Sakoda's life—helping end his career with Los Angeles Police Department, but launching another with Los Angeles County district attorney's office. It fueled nasty rumors about him here but brought him celebrity status in Japan, including a coveted decoration for meritorious service presented by Emperor Akihito in 2007.

Now, nearly three decades after Miura, a Japanese tourist, was shot in one of the biggest trans-Pacific whodunits ever, the case—and Sakoda—are back on center stage. This week, the district attorney's office is scheduled to face celebrity lawyer Mark Geragos in arguing whether the dead woman's husband, Kazuyoshi Miura, should stand trial in Los Angeles for her murder.

Miura was convicted of his wife's murder in Japan in 1994, acquitted on appeal four years later and arrested on a U.S. felony warrant in February 2007 in the U.S. territory of Saipan, where he is being held pending an extradition request from California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Geragos said his client, who proclaims his innocence, was acquitted of all charges in Japan and cannot be tried for them in the U.S. because of double jeopardy laws; prosecutors say a 2004 California law allows the prosecution of people who have been cleared in foreign courts.

A decade after his retirement, Sakoda has been rehired by the district attorney's office to serve as a senior investigator on the case.

"I really think this thing is following me, it's almost spooky at times," said Sakoda, 72. "Who would ever think 25 years later I would have this thing back on top of me?"

Sakoda attended the University of California, Los Angeles, served two years in the Army and returned to enroll in Los Angeles City College. A friend coaxed him to take a law-enforcement class and an LAPD recruiter asked them to apply to the police academy.

Sakoda balked. Police are

"white, 6 feet-plus, blue-eyed blonds," he told his friend. He went for it anyway. Sakoda finished in the top 10 percent of his 1958 graduating class, ranking first in physical fitness, and was elected class president.

"Everybody liked him," said police academy classmate Jack White, a former LAPD commander and former chief of the investigations bureau in the district attorney's office. "He just had an air about him that said sincerity."

Sakoda eventually would be tagged "the samurai detective" among LAPD buddies.

Sakoda was one of a handful of Asian-Americans among 8,500 officers on the police force. Among other assignments, he worked in the narcotics and vice, patrol, and juvenile units.

Along the way, he married Akemi Tani, a former Nisei Week queen, and had four children. Sakoda's youngest son, Joey, calls his father a devoted family man. In 1975, as Asian immigrants poured into Southern California thanks to a liberalized immigration law a decade earlier, Sakoda proposed what he regards as one of his proudest accomplishments: forming the nation's first Asian task force.

In 1976, Sakoda became the first Japanese-American lieutenant in LAPD history. A year later, he was honored as the nation's outstanding law-enforcement officer by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In November 1981, the first call came in about an apparent robbery and shooting involving a Japanese tourist couple visiting Los Angeles.

The husband, Kazuyoshi Miura, told police that he was snapping pictures when two thugs drove up, robbed them,



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Jimmy Sakoda, the LAPD's first Japanese American lieutenant, was nicknamed the "samurai detective" by his colleagues. He was well-liked and admired for his tenacity.

activity, gambling and extortion in Chinatown, spousal abuse and prostitution in Koreatown.

But the two LAPD officers who first responded doubted the story and wanted to book Miura as a suspect, said LAPD Detective Frank Garcia.

The Japanese businessman's account was contradicted by eyewitness statements and physical evidence. In addition, Miura had a rap sheet in Japan that included arson. Later, it was revealed that he cashed out a \$655,000 life insurance policy on his wife.

As Miura loudly portrayed himself as a victim of America's mean streets, the case drew global media attention and was

shot him in the leg and his wife in the head, and escaped.

But events pulled him back into the case.

transferred from central robbery to the major crimes unit. There, Sakoda hit trouble.

The detectives in the major crimes unit focused on two hippies as prime suspects and eventually shut Sakoda out of the case—getting him banned even from attending meetings, according to both Garcia and Sakoda.

They began floating rumors about Sakoda—that he was personally profiting from the case, for instance, by going to Japan and getting "\$10,000 per press release," said Garcia.

Sakoda said all of the rumors were false, and White and Garcia backed him up.

The key detective identified as making the charges at the time did not return phone calls seeking comment for this story.

Sakoda had encountered rejection before and always got past it—a Catholic school's refusal to even discuss his admission, or the UCLA football team's failure to notify him, an all-city center linebacker, about spring training. But the LAPD treatment was most hurtful, he said.

"It was like your own father kicking you out of the house," Sakoda said. "I felt my family didn't believe me anymore. It was very disheartening."

In 1984, after 26 years on the force, he decided to retire.

And when Miura finally did, visiting Saipan in February, Sakoda had one thing to say: "Gotcha."

mate, White, was hired to head the district attorney's investigations bureau. After the dead woman's parents visited then-District Attorney Ira Reiner in Los Angeles pleading for help, White hired the newly retired Sakoda to open the office's own Miura investigation.

At the LAPD, Sakoda's ally, Garcia, was promoted to lead detective on the case. Suddenly, the three old friends who had worked in the LAPD narcotics bureau together were in key positions to revive the investigation.

They worked closely with Japanese police and eventually helped them win the 1994 murder conviction in Japan against Miura.

In 1999, Sakoda retired from the district attorney's office and opened a risk-assessment business. Today, he enjoys his seven grandchildren, deep-sea fishing and working out—at 5 feet 9 inches and 172 pounds, the trim septuagenarian still fits into his old Army fatigues.

People who know Sakoda say his discipline and single-minded tenacity are evident in everything he does.

"My dad says life is not a sprint; it's about perseverance," Joey Sakoda, 33, said. "You've got to hang in there."

So when the Japanese Supreme Court overturned Miura's conviction on appeal, Sakoda did not lose hope. He knew there was an outstanding U.S. warrant for Miura's arrest. He knew Miura could be nabbed if he ever entered U.S. territory.

And when Miura finally did, visiting Saipan in February, Sakoda had one thing to say: "Gotcha."

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Business

Bernanke says recession possible

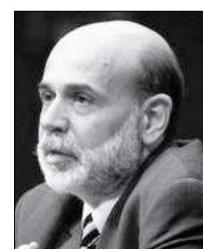
WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke ac-

knowledged the U.S. could reel into recession from the powerful punches of housing, credit

and financial crises. Yet, he was coy about the Fed's next move. With home foreclosures

swelling to record highs and job losses mounting, Bernanke on Wednesday offered Congress an unflinching—and more pessimistic—assessment of potential damage to the national economy.

"A recession is possible," said Bernanke, who is under immense political and public pressure to turn things around. "Our estimates are that we're slightly growing at the moment, but we think that there's a chance that for the first half as a whole there might be a slight contraction."



Bernanke

Under one rule of thumb, six straight months of a shrinking economy would constitute a recession,

but Bernanke wasn't getting into that. "A recession is a technical term," he said. "I'm not yet ready to say whether or not the U.S. economy will face such a situation."

Whether or not the economy already has fallen into its first recession since 2001—and many economists believe it

has—the housing debacle and other economic woes are a major concern for homeowners, job losers and investors. That means they're a concern to Congress and the presidential contenders, too.

The Fed and the White House have been thrust into crisis-management mode.

Hoping to limit damage, the Federal Reserve has been slashing interest rates since the start of the year in an effort to get people and companies spending again. "We are fighting against the wind," Bernanke said, "at least offsetting significantly the headwinds coming from these financial factors."

Weiss pleads guilty in kickback case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Melvyn Weiss, the co-founder of a prominent New York law firm, pleaded guilty Wednesday to a racketeering conspiracy charge in a kickback scheme involving some of the largest corporations in the nation.

The 72-year-old Weiss en-

tered his plea under a previously announced agreement with prosecutors. He has been ordered to pay nearly \$10 million in fines and forfeiture penalties, and could be sentenced to up to 33 months in prison at a later hearing.

Asked by U.S. District Judge John F. Walter if he was

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Factory orders drop

WASHINGTON (AP)—Orders to U.S. factories fell for a second straight month, a worse-than-expected performance that reinforced worries that the risk of recession is rising. The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that factory orders dropped by 1.3 percent in February, about double the downturn that economists had been expecting. Orders had fallen an even bigger 2.3 percent in January, the largest decline in five months. The falloff in demand was widespread, with steep declines in orders for motor ve-

hicles, various types of heavy machinery and demand for iron and steel.

Gas, oil futures jump as demand rises

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline and oil futures rose sharply Wednesday after the Energy Department reported an unexpected jump in gasoline demand and a big drop in supplies. May gasoline futures rose 13.44 cents to settle at a record \$2.7736 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude oil futures for May delivery followed gasoline higher, jumping \$3.85 to settle at \$104.83 a barrel on the Nymex. Surging gas and oil futures prices are likely to contribute to the upward trend at the pump. Retail gas prices rose 0.1 cent overnight to a national average of \$3.287 a gallon, matching Monday's record, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

to 12,605.83 after changing direction several times.

United grounds

777s for inspections

CHICAGO (AP)—U.S. air travelers have endured longer lines, more delays and the loss of amenities like meals and blankets. Now they are getting hit with a wave of schedule disruptions caused by airlines scrambling amid increased regulatory scrutiny to ensure that the expanding air transport system stays safe. The latest complication came Wednesday, when United Airlines temporarily grounded dozens of Boeing 777s to test their cargo fire-suppression systems. United said it canceled 41 flights and delayed dozens of others as it carried out work on the long-haul jets after a review of maintenance records showed that a test on a bottle in the fire suppression system hadn't been performed.

Wall Street pulls back as oil spikes

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street turned lower Wednesday as investors worried that a sharp jump in oil prices could be another sign that consumers are under stress in an economy that is already showing signs of a recession. The major indexes, which spent most of the session in a tight trading range, tumbled after oil prices shot higher in response to the Energy Department's report of an unexpected jump in gasoline demand. That could lead to higher prices at the pump, a troublesome trend given that retail gas prices are expected to rise further as the summer approaches and put more financial pressure on consumers. The Dow Jones industrials fell 48.53, or 0.38 percent,

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Court hears appeal of Enron's Skilling

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Former Enron Corp. CEO Jeffrey Skilling, convicted for his role in the once-might energy giant's collapse, took risks when he ran the company but they were always for its benefit, his attorney told an appeals court Wednesday. His well-intentioned actions negate his convictions, which rest on a legal theory that Skilling deprived Enron of his "honest services" and put his own interests above those of the company, defense attorney Daniel Petrocelli told a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But prosecutors argued Skilling's actions were dishonest and contrary to the needs of the company's shareholders and its financial stability.

\$ DOLLARS AND SENSE

Bracing for tough times

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Recession, depression, downturn in the market—no matter what it's called, there's less money going around. Taking the right steps now can help you get through what might be a bumpy time.

If you've been considering a job change, perhaps to a middle-management slot in the same or another company, give it long thought before you accept a position. "Last hired, first fired" could apply if your new company downsizes, and middle managers are most vulnerable. Meanwhile, be indispensable at the job you do have.

Develop multiple sources of income. If you have a marketable mini-skill or hobby (small engine or appliance repair, sewing, home maintenance) that allows others to fix what they have rather than buying new, consider starting a part-time business. Invest in a few ads to promote your services and increase your presence in local groups. The more you're known in places like church or social or service groups, the more opportunities you'll have to spread the word and to hear what others are able to provide.

Set up a trade system with likeminded others. If you can fix

a computer, but your neighbor is good with oil changes or alterations, you both can benefit.

Do it yourself where possible. If your local community college or chain hardware store offers classes in home repair, take advantage of those that will allow you to avoid the high cost of repairs.

Sign up on Freecycle (www.freecycle.org), a site that promotes the reuse of goods.

Don't take on any new debt. When magazine subscriptions expire, don't renew. Get out of book clubs, gym memberships (unless it causes a penalty fee) and anything that involves an automatic expense each month.

Minimize the number of automatic bill-paying deductions you have coming out of your checking account. Write checks each month instead, staying more in control of your money.

Take care of maintenance now for anything from dental work to roof repair to forestall big expenses down the road.

Consider unemployment insurance to cover your mortgage.

Imagine that your income is cut off tomorrow. Calculate how long you would be able to survive and pay your bills on the money you have now. Consider what a dollar means to you today versus what it might mean tomorrow.

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Anyone who has been in the workforce for a while has advice to share—and it doesn't always sync up with mine.

Stephen Farina says that workers who hate their bosses shouldn't be so quick to resign. "I have been in my job for 16 years and have seen (upper management) come and go five times," he wrote in a recent e-mail. "What I have learned is that their decisions are often wrong or based on their own personal biases. ... It is often far better to stay and seek legal advisement and document, document, document. Don't let

incompetent management and unethical and often illegal policies drive you from a rewarding, well-paying career."

My response to a new teacher who thought his principal was unfairly picking on him for not having a traditional education background drew supportive comments from teachers, including Ken Woodard, a history teacher with 18 years experience. "As department chair I get lots of resumes, many from people hoping to switch careers," he wrote. "All too often there's a whiff of condescension from such candidates, and they don't make the call pile. Americans have weird views of teachers: Either

they regard us with contempt or, less often, through a lens of romanticism that distorts the reality of a rewarding job that requires hard work, creativity and diverse skills that have to withstand the test of a tough audience every day."

Other would-be teachers, especially career changers, would do well to keep Woodard's perspective in mind when they are preparing their applications.

Nan Connolly said I erred in saying women should decline additional assignments when they were already swamped at work by telling their co-worker, "I'm sorry. I'm on deadline."

"Too many times women say they are sorry," she wrote.

"People bump into women in airports and they, the women, apologize. I see this all the time, everywhere. Someone out of your department waylaying you for additional work should not be told you are sorry not to do it."

She continued, "I really think women give up some authority by frequently apologizing."

Actually, a guest in my Web chat, career coach and author Katy Piotrowski, gave that advice. I agree that frequent apologizing is problematic, but I don't see the issue with apologizing in that particular situation. After all, I really do regret it when I can't help my colleagues.

Sorry.

initiative and confirms skills. Other people tell me it is a waste of time. Is it possible to have too many certifications?

A: Who are the people who say it's a waste of time? Clients? Mentors? Supervisors? If so, I would listen. If they're friends or family members in an unrelated field, I would ignore them.

But in general, certifications should be about quality, not quantity.

Edited questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

Job-hunting? Go and meet people

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I am on hiatus from working and am looking for my next assignment. However, it seems that things have changed drastically. Do you really need to know someone to get your foot in the door?

A: Knowing someone helps immensely. That doesn't mean you have no control over your prospects. It just means you need to get those feet of yours out there and into more places. Attend professional conferenc-

es and job fairs.

I'm not sure what you mean by "changed drastically," though. This is pretty much how hiring has always worked. Ever hear of the "Old Boys' Network"?

Q: I'm interviewing for a job. I've been in my current job six months, but I haven't listed it on my resume because I don't want it to seem as if I'm "job hopping." (I was at my previous job for one year.) How do I answer the question about contact-

ing my current supervisor?

A: You stop lying on your resume. I mean, what is your plan come interview time? To pretend that you're unemployed?

As for contacting your supervisor, say "no" or make access to your boss contingent on the new employer making an offer.

Q: Two years ago I started to take exams for career-related certifications (think Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Analyst, etc.). I now have three certifications and am well on my way to four. I think it shows

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Nation

States suing EPA over global warming

BOSTON (AP)—Officials of 18 states are taking the EPA back to court to try to force it to comply with a Supreme Court ruling that rebuked the Bush administration for inaction on global warming.

In a petition filed Wednesday, the plaintiffs said the 5-4 ruling in April 2007 required the Environmental Protection Agency to decide whether to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide, from motor vehicles.

The EPA has instead done nothing, they said.

Obama trims Clinton's lead in Pa.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sen. Barack Obama was endorsed Wednesday by a labor union and two Democratic superdelegates, as a poll showed he has cut Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's lead in Pennsylvania almost in half since mid-February as he strives to deny her a resounding victory in the state's presidential primary.

The Illinois senator peeled off an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which has endorsed Clinton. The Philadelphia-based local of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees has about 16,000 members.

Its president, Henry Nicholas, announced the endorsement while introducing Obama at a meeting of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Nicholas, who also is president of the 150,000-member national union and an AFSCME international vice president, said he took the step "because justice told me it was the right position to take."

■ ■ ■

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—For-

"The EPA's failure to act in the face of these incontestable dangers is a shameful dereliction of duty," Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley said.

The petition asks the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to require the EPA to act within 60 days.

In last year's decision, the Supreme Court ruled the EPA has the authority to regulate emissions from new cars and trucks under the Clean Air Act, and said the reasons the EPA gave for declining to do so were insufficient.

EPA spokesman Jonathan Shradar said the Supreme Court required the agency to evaluate how it would regulate greenhouse gas emissions from cars and other vehicles but set no deadline.

The EPA plans to include the evaluation in a broader look at how to best regulate all greenhouse gas emissions, not just those from vehicles, he said. Otherwise, a mash of laws and regulations could emerge rather than the "holistic" approach the administration favors.

"We want to set a good foundation to build a strong climate policy of poten-

tial regulation and laws we can work toward and actually see some success," Shradar said.

At a press conference Wednesday, David Brookbinder of the Sierra Club, one of 11 environmental groups involved in the suit, said the EPA has been talking about a "holistic" approach to climate change for years.

"In fact, they have done absolutely nothing except stand in the way of everybody's else's efforts," he said.

Last week's announcement by the EPA of the formal rule-making procedure sig-

naled the agency wanted to put greenhouse gas regulation "on indefinite hold," said Jim Milkey, chief of environmental protection at Coakley's office, who argued the case before the Supreme Court.

"Every day that goes by without a solution, the window of opportunity to fix the problem closes a bit more," he said.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said the EPA "has failed to lead, it has failed to follow the states' lead and we are prepared to force it out of the way in order to protect the environment."



Clinton



Obama

mer President Clinton is still smarting over New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson's endorsement of Barack Obama. During a private meeting with California Democrats this past weekend, Clinton grew red-faced as he talked about how he expected Richardson,

who was a member of Clinton's Cabinet, to back Hillary Rodham Clinton for the presidential nomination or at least stay neutral, according to several people who attended.

Instead, Richardson endorsed Obama late last month, calling him a "once-in-a-lifetime leader."

"He sort of gets a little redder and redder and redder, but he wasn't off the deep end as I had seen him in the

past," said Inola Henry, an uncommitted superdelegate. "It was sort of like, 'Gee, I'm a martyr.' He seemed more hurt than anything."

Clinton used his appearance at the state Democratic Party convention in San Jose to lobby California's 21 uncommitted superdelegates to support his wife.

Meanwhile, Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal and former Montana Sen. John Melcher endorsed Obama. As superdelegates to the national convention, they are among the Democratic Party leaders who will decide the nomination because, although Obama leads Clinton in delegates, neither candidate can win solely with pledged delegates they've won through primaries and caucuses. Obama handily won Wyoming's March 8 caucus; Montana holds a Democratic primary June 3.

Since last Friday, Obama has cut Clinton's lead among superdelegates by four; she has 250 to his 220.

Experts dubious of Ga. 3rd-grader plot

WAYCROSS, Ga. (AP)—Allegations that third-graders hatched an elaborate plot to knock out, handcuff and stab their teacher were met with shock by neighbors and with doubt by psychiatry experts who said it is unlikely that children that young seriously intended to hurt anyone.

Police say the plot at Center Elementary School began because the children, ages 8 to 10, were apparently angry after the teacher disciplined one of the students for standing on a chair.

Students brought a crystal paper-weight, a steak knife with a broken handle, steel handcuffs and other items as part of last week's plot, police said Tuesday. They said nine students were involved, but prosecutors are seeking juvenile charges against only three of them.

Experts said children that age are certainly imaginative and capable of creating elaborate games. But Dr. Louis Kraus, a child psychiatry expert at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, said he doubts they would have actually attacked.

"The reality is it is highly unlikely they would have been successful at this," Kraus said. "Even if it had been, it's unclear whether they actually

would have followed through with it."

Most premeditated acts of student violence in schools usually don't occur until high school, Kraus said. Younger children have been known to bring knives or other weapons to school, experts said, but often it's more a matter of showing off or acting tough than part of a deliberate assault attempt.

Police said the plot had been organized enough that some students were assigned specific roles such as covering classroom windows and cleaning up any mess.

Most children under the age of 12 don't generally experience the kind of long-standing anger necessary for a premeditated crime, said Dan Mears, an associate professor at Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

"Kids tend to be more spontaneous," Mears said. "If they're angry, they act on it right then."

The district attorney is seeking juvenile charges of conspiracy to commit aggravated assault against an 8-year-old boy and two girls, ages 9 and 10. The girls are also charged with bringing weapons to school.

News of the alleged plot spread quickly through this small south Geor-

gia city on the northern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp, where residents are preparing for their annual Swamp-Fest celebration this weekend.

"They were so young, I just couldn't believe it," said Euleathia Harris, 50, who lives in a public housing complex near the school. "I wouldn't think anything like that would happen in little ol' Waycross. I guess if it can happen in the big cities, it can happen here."

Police Chief Tony Tanner said the plot unraveled when a student reported to school officials Friday that a classmate had a knife in her backpack.

School officials say they punished all nine students, and some received long-term suspension, but they would not be more specific. Under school system rules, children who bring weapons to school may also face expulsion.

Tanner and District Attorney Rick Currie did not immediately return calls seeking comment Wednesday.

Shavette Owens, whose 7- and 8-year-old children attend the school, said she was glad officials had taken action, but was still somewhat shaken.

"Where were my kids at when these kids had all those weapons?" Owens said. "My heart just dropped, I didn't know what to think."

BRIDGE ACCIDENT

A crane pulls a platform out of the Arkansas River from the I-430 bridge where three men were working on it when it collapsed and fell into the water, Wednesday, April 2, 2008 in Little Rock, Ark. The three men are presumed dead after falling 100 feet into the swollen Arkansas River. The men were working on installing 30-inch-diameter waterlines under and across the Interstate 430 bridge when their scaffolding platform collapsed, officials said.

Senator's husband admits paying for sex

TROY, Mich. (AP)—The husband of

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow told authorities that he used the Internet to arrange a \$150 sexual tryst with a prostitute at a metropolitan Detroit hotel, police said Wednesday.

Thomas Athans, 46, co-founder of the liberal TalkUSA Radio network, was stopped by police who were investigating prostitution at the hotel, according to a police report obtained by The Associated Press.

Athans, in a statement issued by his attorney, apologized and said he "fully cooperated with law enforcement. My family and I are dealing with this matter in a personal and private way."

Stabenow, D-Mich., said in an interview with The AP that she wanted "folks to know that I'm grateful for their prayers and support and this is a family matter that is very difficult but

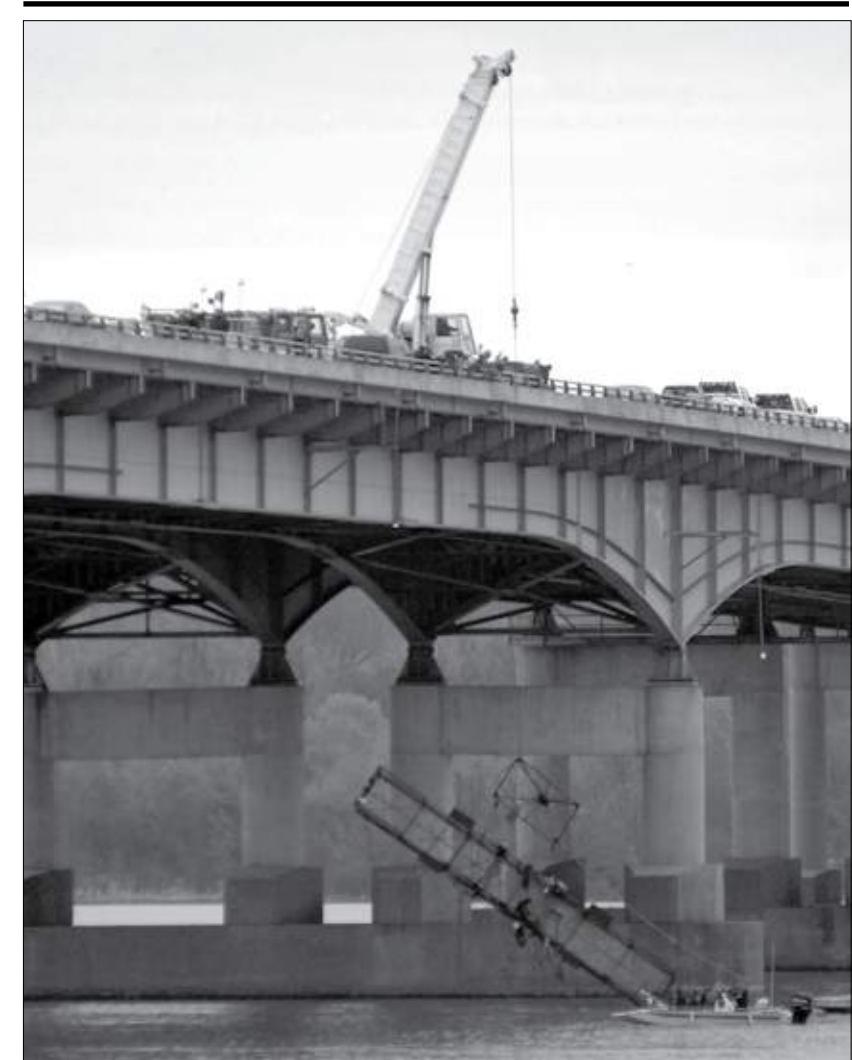
we are going to work through it."

"I think it's important to continue to do my job and to focus on people in Michigan who are hurting every day and expect that I'm going to fight for them every day," she said.

The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News first reported on the case in stories on their Web sites Wednesday.

Troy police had set up a stakeout at the Residence Inn after learning of suspected prostitution at a room there, the police report said. Officers said they saw Athans enter the room Feb. 26 and leave 15 minutes later.

They stopped Athans' car and informed him they were investigating prostitution. He told the officers he had used the Internet to make a date with a prostitute and paid her \$150 for oral sex at the motel, the report said.



Explosion destroys Wis. church; 7 hurt

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (AP)—An explosion in a Milwaukee suburb demolished a church and damaged two homes Wednesday, injuring seven people, including three firefighters, authorities said.

Road and sewer work was being done in downtown Oconomowoc before the explosion occurred around 1:30 p.m., said Bob Duffy, the city's economic development director. The blast and flying debris knocked over several workers, he said.

WE Energies had received a call from a contractor about an hour earlier, saying workers smelled gas and may have hit a line, company spokesman Brian Manthey said. The company sent out a crew, and at least one of its workers was injured, he said.

Another WE Energies spokesman, Rick James, said he did not yet know whether natural gas caused the explosion. But the company turned off natural gas service to about 150 customers in the area around First Baptist Church Oconomowoc, and emergency workers were evacuating nearby homes and businesses.

Two investigators from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were sent to the scene, said Christine Zortman, assistant area director in Milwaukee.

One person was flown to Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital and was being evaluated, hospital spokeswoman Carolyn Bellin said. Four others, including a firefighter, were taken to Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital with cuts, bruises and abrasions, administrative assistant Jeanne Ward said.

Duffy said two other firefighters suffered minor injuries, but he did not know their whereabouts.

Smoke billowed from what remained of the church and a neighboring home Wednesday afternoon, obscuring the view of the 100 or so people who had gathered outside.

Joy Freudenstein, 30, was cleaning her house about three blocks from the church



A utility worker makes his way past the bell tower of First Baptist Church in Oconomowoc, Wis., during a blaze which destroyed the building Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

when she heard a boom. She immediately thought it was an earthquake.

"It shook my house," Freudenstein said. "It sounded like someone downstairs blew something up."

Waukesha County Board Supervisor Kenneth Herro, who works a block away as a real estate agent, said he heard an explosion and walked to the scene.

"The church basically had disappeared and the only thing remaining was the

steeple in the front," Herro said.

He said he smelled natural gas and ambulances were pulling away as he arrived. One house on each side of the church was on fire, he said.

The explosion shook downtown, Herro said. "We have really large windows, all the windows just kind of bowed out," he said.

Oconomowoc is about 30 miles west of Milwaukee.

Woman gets 99 years in killing plot



Mechele Linehan, center, her husband Colin Linehan, left, and Judy Linehan, right, listen to final arguments in Mechele Linehan's sentencing in Anchorage, Alaska, Wednesday April 2, 2008 for the murder of Kent Leppink.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A former stripper-turned-soccer-mom convicted of plotting to kill her former fiance 12 years ago was sentenced Wednesday to 99 years in prison.

Mechele Linehan, 35, who until her arrest had been living a quiet life as the wife of an Olympia, Wash., doctor, was convicted in October of first-degree

murder in the 1996 shooting death of Kent Leppink.

Prosecutor Pat Gullufsen said Linehan plotted with another man who hoped to marry her, John Carlin III, to lure Leppink to a rural trail, where Carlin shot him with a .44-caliber handgun.

The motive was a \$1 million insurance policy that Linehan mistakenly

believed named her as the beneficiary, prosecutors said.

Carlin was sentenced in January to 99 years in prison for firing the shots that killed Leppink.

Anchorage Superior Court Judge Philip Volland called the crime the worst in its category: premeditated, cold and cruel.

"It was a calculated homicide accomplished through deceit, deception and manipulation," Volland said. "It was done for the most venal of reasons and it was dismissed by the two participants in the most casual of ways. It was a man killed by his friend and his fiance."

Volland rejected the contention that Linehan was not a significant participant in Leppink's murder. The evidence showed her obtaining the life insurance policy on Leppink as she was deceiving him about her intentions to marry him, he said. She also used deceit to lure him to the murder scene.

"Just those facts are ones that support complicity in the event," Volland said.

Dozens of people who knew Linehan in the decade after Leppink's murder wrote letters supporting her, mentioning her generosity and volunteer service. But Volland said he could not offer a sentence different from the one he gave to Carlin.

Arrest in 7-year-old Utah girl's death

SOUTH SALT LAKE, Utah (AP)—A man held in the killing of a 7-year-old girl who vanished from her family's complex admitted he caused her death inside his apartment while hundreds of people searched for her, police said Wednesday.

Esar Met, 21, was being held on charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and evidence tampering, according to a document filed to support his arrest.

The body of Hser Nay Moo (pronounced SER nah moo) was found Tuesday, more than 24 hours after she disappeared from her family's apartment at the South Parc complex. Her body was found in the apartment where Met had been living for about a month.

Hser and her family are natives of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, and settled in Utah last summer. The girl's father, Cartoon Wah, said through an interpreter Wednesday that he was grateful for an outpouring of public support.

"I have one daughter in this world, and I loved her the most," he said.

Police Chief Chris Snyder said Hser knew Met's four roommates and had played in the apartment many times. Wah said he had knocked on the door

during the search but got no answer.

After Hser died, Met hid the body and left the apartment, Snyder said. The police chief declined to disclose details about how she was killed.

Met's roommates were not home at the time of Hser's death, and they "had no idea" what had happened until police entered, Snyder said at a news conference.

Candles, stuffed bears and flowers were placed at the apartment complex Wednesday.

Volunteers had searched for Hser after she walked away from her apartment following an argument with an older brother Monday. Hser had four brothers, one born just a few weeks ago.

The family is among more than 500 refugees from Myanmar living in Utah, said Norman Nakamura, Utah's coordinator for refugee resettlement. The country is governed by an authoritarian military regime and has numerous documented cases of human rights abuses, according to the U.S. State Department.

Authorities were still looking into the background of Met, who does not have a criminal record in the U.S., said Snyder, the police chief.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-Ranger guilty in roommate's death

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)—A former Army Ranger was convicted Wednesday in the shooting death of a roommate and fellow Ranger he claimed had committed suicide. The jury convicted Gary Smith of second-degree murder—depraved heart—in the killing of Michael McQueen II, but declined to convict him of first-degree murder. That means that instead of facing a life sentence, Smith will receive no more than 30 years in prison. McQueen, 22, died in September 2006 of a gunshot to the head in the apartment he shared with Smith in Gaithersburg. The men served two tours together in Afghanistan in an intelligence unit with the Rangers.

Man accused of cover-up in ricin probe

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A federal grand jury has indicted the cousin of a man who was apparently poisoned by the deadly toxin ricin. Thomas Tholen was indicted Wednesday on a charge of misprision of felony. U.S. Attorney Brett Tolman says Tholen knew ricin had been illegally produced but did not report it to authorities and lied to cover up his concealment. Tholen is cousins with Roger Bergendorff, who apparently was poisoned by ricin and suffered respiratory ailments. He regained consciousness March 12 after about a month in a Las Vegas hospital. Tholen was collecting Bergendorff's belongings from the motel room on Feb. 28 when he gave a motel manager a plastic bag containing several vials of what turned out to be ricin powder.

TSA touts bomb arrest at Fla. airport

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A Jamaican arrested after trying to check luggage containing pipe bomb-making materials onto a flight home explained that he wanted to show his friends there how to make them, authorities said Wednesday. Investigators were questioning whether Kevin Christopher Brown had ever been to Iraq—where he told them he'd seen similar bombs made, according to court documents—and looking into his mental health history after his arrest Tuesday at Orlando International Airport. Authorities and airline officials repeated their assurances that passengers were never in danger. Transportation Security Administration officials nonetheless touted the 32-year-old's arrest as a victory for new covert screening techniques involving plainclothes officers mingling with travelers.

La. congressman's brother indicted

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The eldest brother and political strategist of indicted U.S. Rep. William Jefferson has been charged with giving payoffs to a school-board president—a bribery case apparently unrelated to the one against the congressman. In a federal indictment handed up Wednesday, Mose Jefferson is accused of giving \$140,000 to help secure about \$14 million in contracts to bring a computer-based teaching system to Orleans Parish schools. He is charged with bribery, money laundering and obstruction of justice. William Jefferson is accused of using his congressional office to leverage bribes and lucrative business deals from companies seeking to do business in Africa.

Senate leaders agree on housing relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan Senate bill designed to ease the slumping housing market won tepid reviews Wednesday, and even its top sponsor acknowledged that much more is needed to help millions of families threatened with foreclosure. The scaled-back proposal unveiled by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., contains an amalgam of ideas aimed at boosting demand for housing and helping homeowners saddled with subprime mortgages avoid foreclosure. The plan contains \$4 billion in grants to local governments to buy and refurbish foreclosed homes, new authority for states to issue bonds to be used to refinance subprime mortgages and a temporary \$7,000 tax credit for people buying new homes or properties in foreclosure.

Asia

West China, Tibet unrest tests Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—Unrest was reported Wednesday among Muslims in far western China, a headache for Beijing as it tries to squelch Tibetan protests and another sign that neither investment nor repression has ended anti-government feeling in the hinterlands.

The protests in Xinjiang create new problems for Beijing as it tries to contain demonstrations while fending off criticism of its treatment of minorities ahead of this summer's Beijing Olympics.

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Beijing since a deadly March 14 anti-government riot in the Tibetan capital, said he appealed to Chinese leaders to engage their critics.

Draft UN statement targets Myanmar junta

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A draft Security Council statement calls on Myanmar's government to allow detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political actors to speak freely and hold meetings ahead of the May referendum on a new constitution, according to a copy obtained Wednesday.

The statement prepared by the United States, Britain and France, was obtained by The Associated Press on the day that Suu Kyi's party urged voters to reject the military-backed draft constitution. The National League for Democracy said it was undemocratic and prepared under the junta's direct control.

The statement is expected to be circulated to all 15 Security Council members in the coming days. It needs the approval of all members for the council to adopt it.

"I expressed our concerns about the violence and urged a peaceful resolution through dialogue," Paulson said. He de-

clined to specify to which officials he made the appeal.

The reports about the latest unrest in Xinjiang described



A young Tibetan monk walks inside the Nanwu temple in Kangding, west of Sichuan province, China, Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

Critics of the proposed constitution say it aims to perpetuate military rule.

The junta has been under strong international pressure to make democratic reforms, especially since it quashed peaceful pro-democracy protests last September. The U.N. estimates at least 31 people were killed and thousands more were detained in the crackdown.

The draft Security Council statement expresses regret at the military government's "slow rate of progress" towards meeting the council's call last September for a "genuine dialogue" with the pro-democracy opposition and the early release of all political prisoners and detainees.

disturbances last month at a bazaar in the city of Hotan, deep in the Muslim Uighur minority's cultural heartland.

A local government statement said a "tiny number of people" tried to create an incident March 23 "under the flag of separatism." A local government spokesman blamed the protest on Uighur separatists whom he accused of seizing on the Tibet unrest to call attention to their independence cause.

"These people are splittists responding to the Tibetan riots," the spokesman, Fu Chao, said. He said dozens were arrested, but only the "core splittists" remained in custody.

"It was out already, so they were forced to react rapidly," he said.

Linking the protesters to events in Tibet was a way of portraying them as opportunists.

tic and thereby undermining any real grievances, he said.

Faced with local opposition, China has employed the twin policies of economic development and repression in both Xinjiang and Tibet, believing that would win over the masses while crushing dissent.

Opposition has continued, however, mainly peacefully in Tibet, but sometimes accompanied by violence in Xinjiang; authorities this year claimed to have foiled a Uighur terror plot targeting the Olympics and an attempt to crash a commercial airliner.

The incident in Hotan came nine days after the deadly rioting in Lhasa set off the largest and most sustained wave of protests in Tibetan areas of western China in almost two decades.

Tibet exile radio says China jamming it

OSLO, NORWAY (AP)—China has intensified its jamming of a Tibetan exile radio network's news broadcasts into Tibet during a crackdown on anti-government protests there, the network charged Wednesday.

The Chinese use radio stations inside Tibet to block the shortwave frequency used by

U.S. government-funded Radio Free Asia and an overseas Uighur activist reported earlier that the demonstrators were demanding the right for Uighur women to wear head scarves and the release of political prisoners.

The rare official confirmation of the Xinjiang protest appeared to signal the government's sensitivity to unrest, said Nicholas Bequelin, a Hong Kong-based researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"It was out already, so they were forced to react rapidly," he said.

Linking the protesters to events in Tibet was a way of portraying them as opportunists.

handling administration and funding in Oslo. The network started broadcasting in 1996.

Alme said the Chinese government started jamming its broadcasts almost as soon as they began but now is using two or three signals instead of one to make sure that the signal can't be heard.

Nepal police detain Tibetan protesters

KATMANDU, NEPAL (AP)—Police detained around 50 Tibetan exiles in the Nepalese capital Wednesday after they staged a second day of protests in front of the heavily guarded Chinese Embassy, witnesses said.

Protesters chanting "Stop killing in Tibet!" grabbed onto each others' arms as they approached the main entrance of

the embassy compound, where they were quickly surrounded by police. Baton-wielding officers dragged the demonstrators into waiting vans.

Tibetan exiles have rallied almost daily in Nepal since March 10 anti-government riots in their homeland, but they demonstrated for the first time Tuesday in front of China's main embassy building in

Katmandu. Security has been stepped up since then.

Each protest has been broken up by police, who have orders not to allow demonstrations against China—a key trading partner that assists with some development work in the Himalayan nation. Detained protesters are usually freed at night and are not charged or taken to court.

Olympic torch passes through Kazakhstan

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN (AP)—The president of Kazakhstan ran with the Olympic flame Wednesday in a tightly guarded ceremony that he praised as a display of his country's tight relationship with China, the host of the Summer Games.

French athletes and officials promised dissent over Chinese policy after the torch reaches Europe, saying that athletes carrying the torch through Paris would wear badges celebrating free expression. The mayor of Paris said a banner support-

ing human rights would hang on city hall.

Kazakhstan was the first stop for the Olympic flame on its 130-day global tour. Protests against China's policies toward Tibet and Sudan were expected in several of the 21 stops ahead of the Beijing Summer Games, including London and San Francisco.

About 4,500 policemen were deployed to guard the ceremony in Almaty, the economic capital of the oil-rich nation former Soviet republic, which has become

increasingly dependent on its economic and political ties with neighboring China.

"The fact that the city of Almaty became the first point of the Olympic flame's run proves China's good attitude to Kazakhstan, and Chairman Hu Jintao's good attitude to me personally," President Nursultan Nazarbayev, dressed in a white sports outfit, said before his short symbolic torch run at a mountain resort. Thousands of spectators waved flags and cheered.

Temporary ban on castration in Thailand

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AP)—Thailand's Health Ministry ordered hospitals and medical clinics to temporarily stop performing castrations for non-medical reasons, saying Wednesday that the procedure performed on transsexuals needs stricter monitoring.

A letter will be sent to medical facilities around the country telling them to halt so-

called commercial castrations until further notice, he said. Violators could face closure of their practices.

"As of today, doctors can perform the surgery if there is a medical reason to do so—not for any other reason," ministry spokesman Suphan Srihamma said.

The move came after a leading gay activist, Natee Teerarojjanapongs, called on the



A TOAST WITH PALAU

In this photo released by the Presidential Close-in Photographers Office, PCPO, Malacanang Palace in Manila, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, proposes a toast to President Tommy Remengasau, Jr. of the Republic of Palau during the State banquet lunch in Malacanang Palace in Manila Wednesday April 2, 2008. A Continental Airlines strict security check delayed late Wednesday Remengasau's flight back to Palau after the Philippine Government and Remengasau himself refused to be frisked as required of all departing passengers. Remengasau is scheduled to depart Thursday on a private plane provided by the Philippine Government.

Medical Council to take action against clinics that perform castrations on underage boys.

Natee, head of the Gay Political Group of Thailand, said he received several complaints from parents of underage boys seeking castrations in part because of Internet advertisements that promise cheap operations resulting in feminine qualities such as softer skin.

World

Al-Qaida's No. 2 defends deadly attacks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri, rejecting criticism of attacks by the terror network's followers that have killed thousands, maintained Wednesday that it does not kill innocent people.

His comment came during a 90-minute audio response that was billed as the first installment of answers to the more than 900 questions submitted on extremist Internet sites by al-Qaida supporters, critics and journalists in December.

"We haven't killed the innocents, not in Baghdad, nor in Morocco, nor in Algeria, nor anywhere else," al-Zawahri said, according to a 46-page English transcript that accompanied the audio message posted on Web sites linked to al-Qaida.

The answer was in response to the question: "Excuse me, Mr. Zawahri, but who is it who is killing with Your Excellency's blessing the innocents in Baghdad, Morocco and Algeria?"

Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York and Washington in 2001, while its affiliates in Iraq, Afghanistan and Algeria regularly set off bombs in crowded urban areas that have taken



Iraqi children stand on top of a destroyed Iraqi Army's vehicle in Basra some 550 kilometers (about 340 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

thousands of lives.

"If there is any innocent who was killed in the mujahedeen's operations, then it was either an

unintentional error or out of necessity," al-Zawahri said.

He went on to accuse al-Qaida's opponents of being

the ones who kill innocent people. He also charged that

"the enemy intentionally takes up positions in the midst of the

Muslims for them to be human shields for him."

A banner bearing the logo of al-Qaida's media arm, al-Sahab,

Raul's reforms may strengthen communism

HAVANA (AP)—It's not the stuff of Lenin or Marx, or even of Fidel Castro, but it's hardly free-market capitalism, either. In fact, steps to encourage a Cuban spending spree may help the communist system and its new president survive.

In rapid-fire decrees over the past week, Raul Castro's government has done away with some despised restrictions, lifting bans on electric appliances, microwaves and computers, inviting average citizens to enter long-forbidden resorts and declaring they can even legally have their own cell phones.

More could be on the way. Rumors are rampant the government could ease travel restrictions and tolerate free enterprise that would let more people start their own small businesses. And hopes that it will tweak the dual-currency system that puts foreign products out of reach for most Cubans have sparked a run on the peso.

"We're going to get out and buy more and more," said retiree Roberto Avila. "That's the future in Cuba, and it is a strong future."

Mugabe's party loses grip on parliament

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—President Robert Mugabe's long-ruling party lost its parliamentary majority Wednesday, bolstering opposition claims that impoverished Zimbabweans voted for change in this struggling southern African nation.

The opposition also claimed victory for leader Morgan Tsvangirai in Saturday's presidential vote, but the state-controlled newspaper predicted a runoff—the first official admission that Mugabe, the nation's autocratic leader of 28 years, had not won re-election.

The Movement for Democratic Change expressed con-

fidence Tsvangirai could win a runoff with an even larger margin, but there were fears an embattled Mugabe would roll out every weapon in his considerable political and government arsenal to stay in power.

Election observer Imani Countess of the Washington-based TransAfrica Forum told The Associated Press that the most frightening conversation she has had in Zimbabwe was with a senior official of the ruling ZANU-PF party discussing a runoff.

"He was very calm and jovial but made it very, very clear that if there was a runoff, that ZANU would use all the state organs at its disposal to ensure

victory, and that is very, very worrisome," she said.

Countess, whose group promotes Africa's interests in the United States, said the powerful elite that has benefited from Mugabe's patronage since independence from Britain had a vested interest in ensuring he wins.

The 84-year-old Mugabe, who hasn't commented on the voting, has been accused of stealing previous elections that Western observers said were marred by violence, fraud and intimidation.

This election was different because local results were posted outside polling stations for the first time. That let independent

monitors and party representatives make tallies independent of the official electoral commission, which reported no figures in the presidential race while slowly releasing results in parliamentary contests, including losses by eight Cabinet ministers.

Official results posted Wednesday said 200 of parliament's 210 had been seats decided, with the opposition winning 105, Mugabe's party 94 and an independent candidate one. Even winning the remaining 10 seats, including three to be decided in later by-elections, would leave ZANU-PF short of the 106 seats needed for a majority in the legislature.

Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern to resign May 6

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, the common-touch Dubliner who tended Ireland's economic boom and the blossoming of Belfast peace, announced his resignation Wednesday under a darkening cloud of financial scandal.

The announcement stunned Ireland and much of his Cabinet, whose members stood by Ahern during an 18-month battle against allegations he accepted secret cash payments from businessmen in the 1990s.

Ahern, who governed Ireland through 11 years of growing

prosperity at home and peace in Northern Ireland, maintained his innocence.

"I have never received a corrupt payment, and I've never done anything to dishonor any office I have held," Ahern told a hastily called news conference on the steps of government headquarters. "I know in my heart of hearts I've done no wrong and wronged no one."

Ahern said he would also step down as leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest party, on May 6, one

week after he addresses Congress in Washington—an honor that reflects his pivotal role in Northern Ireland peacemaking over the past decade.

Ahern

Opposition leaders

said Ahern had tarnished his legacy by not resigning sooner.

The main opposition leader, Fine Gael party chief Enda Kenny, urged an immediate election, less

than a year after Ahern narrowly defeated Kenny's rival coalition to win a third straight term.

Kenny said Ahern's adminis-

tration, including heir apparent Deputy Prime Minister Brian Cowen, was complicit in a campaign of deceit.

"Not one of them confronted him. Not one of them disowned him. Not one of them were prepared to say that taking large sums of money was wrong, that it was wrong for (Ahern) not to pay his taxes, that it was wrong to use Fianna Fail money for private use," Kenny said.

Analysts agreed that Ahern's successor, almost certainly Cowen, will not call an early election—and will face much tougher economic times.

appeared earlier in the day on Web sites linked to the network to announce that al-Zawahri's first round of answers.

Al-Zawahri, the chief deputy to Osama bin Laden, said in the audio that he had chosen approximately 100 questions to answer.

Al-Sahab announced in December that al-Zawahri would take questions from the public posted on Islamic militant Web sites and would respond "as soon as possible."

Queries were submitted on the main Islamist Web site until the cutoff date of Jan. 16. After the deadline, the questions disappeared from the site.

Self-proclaimed al-Qaida supporters appeared to be as much in the dark about the terror network's operations and intentions as Western analysts and intelligence agencies.

The questioners appeared uncertain whether al-Qaida's central leadership directly controls the multiple, small militant groups around the Middle East that work in its name, or whether those groups operate on their own.

Some asked if al-Qaida had a long-term strategy, while others wanted advice about conducting Islamic holy war.

NATO allies turn down Bush request

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—President Bush suffered a painful diplomatic setback Wednesday when NATO allies rebuffed his passionate plea to put former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on the path toward membership in the Western military alliance.

The decision, to be made final on Thursday, was sure to be cheered by Moscow, which heatedly opposes NATO's eastward expansion.

In another sign of discord, Greece blocked Macedonia's request to join the 26-nation alliance because of a dispute over its name. Only Croatia and Albania will be invited as new members.

It was a sour outcome for Bush at his final NATO summit as he sought to polish his foreign policy legacy. Instead, he wound up sidetracked by opposition and splits among European allies. It was a result that was foreshadowed by public statements from France and Germany but Bush nevertheless put his prestige on the line and even made a stop in Ukraine on Monday to argue his case.

Off the Wall

Burglar plays dead at funeral home

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A burglar who broke into a funeral home tried to fool police by playing dead, but two things gave him away. First, he breathed. Plus, he wore grungy clothes rather than the Sunday best of those settling in for eternal rest.

Police and the Crespo Funeral Home said Wednesday they had no idea what the 23-year-old Spanish man was trying to steal in the March 17

break-in at Burjassot, a small town just outside Valencia.

Neighbors living nearby alerted police when they heard the front door of the business being forced open in the middle of the night.

Police officers arrived with the owner, and eventually found the suspect lying on a table in a glassed-in chamber used for viewings of deceased people during wakes, a local police official said from Burjassot.

"The custom here is for dead people to be dressed in suits, in nice clothes that look presentable. This guy was in everyday clothes that were wrinkled and dirty," the police official said. Department rules barred her from giving her name.

"He was trying to fake being dead, but he was breathing," the officer said.

The suspect's name was not released. Police said he had served jail time in the

past for robbery. The funeral home said it was

mystified about what the man could have been after, because

there were no valuables or cash inside the funeral parlor.

Aberration splits dog's left leg in two

AVON LAKE, Ohio (AP)—A developmental problem split Angel the dog's leg, making her look like a five-legged pet. Veterinarian Frank Krupka, with the Avon Lake Animal Clinic in suburban Cleveland, said he's

never seen anything like it.

After examining X-rays, Krupka determined that a genetic aberration split Angel's front left leg in two, leaving her with three normal legs and two distinct parts of a fourth.

Krupka said the condition doesn't cause pain but gives her problems moving around. He said surgery is unlikely on the about-7-month-old dog. Krupka said any surgery would be cosmetic and not improve the animal's walk.



Deborah Parker holds Angel the dog, Monday March 31, 2008, at the Avon Lake Animal Clinic in Avon Lake, Ohio.

5th-grader finds mistake at Smithsonian

ALLEGAN, Mich. (AP)—Is fifth-grader Kenton Stufflebeam smarter than the Smithsonian? The 11-year-old boy, who lives in Allegan but attends Alamo Elementary School near Kalamazoo, went with his family during winter break to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.

Since it opened in 1981, millions of people have paraded past the museum's Tower of Time, a display involving prehistoric time. Not one visitor had reported anything amiss with the exhibit until Kenton noticed that a notation, in bold lettering, identified the Precambrian as an era.

Kenton knew that was wrong. His fifth-grade teacher, John Chapman, had nearly made the same mistake in a classroom

earth-science lesson before catching himself.

"I knew Mr. Chapman wouldn't tell all these students" bad information, the boy told the Kalamazoo Gazette for a story published Wednesday.

So Kevin Stufflebeam took his son to the museum's information desk to report Kenton's concern on a comment form. Last week, the boy received a letter from the museum acknowledging that his observation was "spot on."

"The Precambrian is a dimensionless unit of time, which embraces all the time between the origin of Earth and the beginning of the Cambrian Period of geologic time," the letter says.

The solution to the problem would not involve advanced science but rather simply

painting over the word "era," the note says.

"We did forward a copy of

the comment and our paleobiology department's response to the head of the exhibits department," said Lorraine Ramsdell, educational technician for the museum.

While no previous visitors to the museum had brought up the error, it has long rankled the paleobiology department's staff, who noticed it even before the Tower of Time was erected 27 years ago, she said.

"The question is, why was it put up with that on it in the first place?" Ramsdell said.

Excited as he was to receive the correspondence from museum officials, he couldn't help but point out that it was addressed to Kenton Stufflebeam.

In Allegany.

III.-shaped flake to join traveling show

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP)—A corn flake shaped like the state of Illinois will join Jack Ruby's hat and Marilyn Monroe's datebook in a traveling exhibit.

An Internet trivia site submitted a winning bid of \$1,350 for the famous flake, found by two sisters and put up for auction. The owner collects Americana items to put in a planned traveling museum.

"That's the most perfectly Illinois-shaped corn flake I've ever seen," said Jon Wolf as he accepted the flake, swaddled in a cotton-lined jewelry box.

The curator of TriviaMania.



This March 2008 photo provided by Melissa McIntire shows a corn flake next to a dime.

com flew from Austin, Texas, to take possession Tuesday of the flake at the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum in Williamsburg.

The flake will join a collection that includes Ruby's hat, worn the day he shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy; Ron Howard's letter jacket from "Happy Days"; and Monroe's datebook from the year she died.

"I've got a guy who does museum-quality mounting," Wolf said of the flake's future home.

Emily McIntire, 15, found the flake in a box of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. Inspired, she and her sister, Melissa McIntire, 23, of Chesapeake, Va., offered it for sale as "The Great Illinois Corn Flake."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Bob the turtle returns to Texas museum

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Bob is back. The folks at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History say a 2-foot-long snapping turtle called Bob was located Wednesday in a construction area. A worker noticed the dirt-caked critter moseying along. Assistant curator Leishawn Spotted Bear said Bob apparently had been with a group of turtles to be moved last September during renovations at a museum pond. But she believes the 15-pound turtle went underground, at least for awhile, when his fellow reptiles were relocated to another part of the museum complex. Spotted Bear thinks recent heavy rain loosened the dirt where Bob had been. She said Bob appears a little thin, but is doing well and will get some treats, like minnows, to "fatten him up a little bit."

Man's complaint about cat backfires

RIDGEFIELD, Wash. (AP)—When a police officer went to the home of a Ridgefield man who had complained about a neighbor's cat, the officer smelled marijuana. A drug task force returned with a search warrant last weekend and found 84 plants in a raid on the man's home. Police Chief Carrie Green said the man learned to be careful what he complains about.

Man accused of rampage with snow shovel

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—A South Dakota man faces three felony charges after he alleg-

edly got drunk and went on a rampage with a snow shovel at a Bismarck gas station. Tyler Kraft, 20, of Timber Lake, allegedly threatened two other men with the shovel on Saturday and used the shovel to damage a vehicle, a gas pump and glass doors at the station. Police estimate total damages at more than \$10,000. Kraft was charged with terrorizing, criminal mischief and unlawful entry to a motor vehicle.

Surprised shoppers get jury summonses

LIMA, Ohio (AP)—A judge who ran out of prospective jurors in a child rape trial sent sheriff's deputies to a Wal-Mart, a supermarket and a mall to issue jury summonses to surprised shoppers. Three deputies questioned mall walkers and shoppers whether they were Allen County residents and registered voters, and then issued summonses on the spot if answers to both questions were 'yes,' sheriff's Sgt. Brian Winegardner said. Deputies handed orders to appear to 12 potential jurors on Monday and eight on Tuesday, he said. Summonses were also given to visitors to the Allen County Courthouse, where the trial is scheduled, including one man who was there finalizing a divorce and another who was visiting the county auditor's office.

Tire falls from helicopter into Ga. home

MONROE, Ga. (AP)—The mystery of a tire that plunged from the sky and crashed through the roof of a home here

now has an explanation. Federal Aviation Administration officials told home owner Mark Brown on Tuesday that the wheel plummeted to earth from a helicopter owned by the Loganville-based Forever Green Landscaping. The wheel is part of equipment used to haul the helicopter around the landing pad during maintenance. Officials said the equipment should have been removed before flight. The company's owner told the Athens Banner-Herald he didn't know his helicopter had lost a wheel.

Man escapes from jail, nobody notices

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Law enforcement officials are trying to understand how a convicted felon managed to escape from a privately owned jail across the street from the police headquarters without anyone noticing his absence for a full day. Esequiel Pena, 35, escaped from a private San Antonio jail sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon. He remained at large Tuesday but was thought to be in the San Antonio area, said U.S. Marshals Service spokesman Thomas J. Smith. Pena apparently escaped by pulling back chain-link fencing around a rooftop recreation yard and climbing down an eight-story fire escape, Smith said. Pena was being held at the privately operated Central Texas Detention Facility for violating terms of his supervised release. He was previously convicted of an unspecified weapons charge and later re-arrested for a different offense, Smith said.

Science & Technology

CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By ROB PEGORARO

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If you buy a new printer (or a printer/scanner combo device), it will probably ship with some old software—the most basic drivers that a Mac or Windows computer needs to use for the device's features. Most manufacturers don't seem to update the CD or DVD in a printer's box with the latest drivers; when users install the software on that disc, they can run into minor and major glitches.

At worst, the printer may not be usable at all; some older printer drivers don't work in Windows Vista. To fix this, throw out the CD and go to the printer manufacturer's Web site for the latest versions. If more than one download is available for your operating system, go with the smaller one—the bigger, "full feature" files that some vendors provide often include extra programs you don't need.

■ ■ ■

Some sales reps in electronics and computer stores speak from years of experience researching, using and fixing gadgets while others can say the craziest things. Readers routinely tell me about hearing wildly incorrect information from clerks on show floors. A few weeks ago, for example, one asked me if he needed to replace his new digital TV because he was told that "all movie discs in the future will be made in Blu-ray format." (There is zero danger of that happening anytime soon, but even if it did, you still wouldn't need a new TV set.)

Bring your skepticism to the store: If a shop's employee tells you something that seems odd or implausible, check it out for yourself before you make any purchasing decisions. Better yet, do your own research online or at the library before you set foot in any stores. Or, if you can, shop with a friend who already knows the product you're looking to buy.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

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Q. After disabling some start-up programs and using a registry cleaner on my Gateway, the screen saver stops working, and the machine re-detects the graphics card after a restart. Gateway said only a system restore would work, but I find that hard to believe.

A. Surprise! Sometimes tech support actually has the answer. Windows' System Restore, which will take a glitchy system back to an earlier and less-troubled state, was made for this kind of scenario.

To run it in Windows XP, go to the Start menu, select All Programs, then Accessories, System Tools and System Restore. In Vista, type "System Restore" in the Start menu's search bar. Pick a "restore point" prior to that cleanup.

You'll lose any programs you've installed since then, but your own files should be safe. You can redo the system tuneup without the registry cleaning, which can cause weird problems if done incorrectly.

You should also duck into the Control Panel to change your power options (in XP, look under the "Performance and Maintenance" category). There's no reason to keep a screen saver running for hours unless you want to pad your electric bill. Instead, set the computer to shut off the monitor after 15 minutes of inactivity.

■ ■ ■

Q. I'm looking at getting a MacBook Pro, but I'm not sure if I should spend the extra cash on the 17-inch model.

A. Unless you need a bigger screen everywhere (unlikely unless you do professional graphics or video work) there's no reason to spring for the 17-inch MacBook Pro. The money saved—even if you get the priciest 15-inch model—would easily buy a huge external monitor or backup hard drive.

Remember this anytime somebody's selling you some system upgrade: You could put that money toward other gadgets that will make a much bigger difference in your quality of digital life.

New mobile service fights speed traps

NEW YORK (AP)—In a modern equivalent of flashing your headlights to warn other motorists of police speed traps, you can now warn fellow drivers with a cell phone or personal digital assistant about speed traps, red-light cameras and other threats to ticket-free driving.

And as you approach a known threat, you'll get an audio alert on your mobile device.

The developer of Trapster, Pete Tenereillo, said the system, which requires punching in a few keys such as "pound-1" to submit information to Trapster's

database, should comply with laws banning talking on cell phones.

Tenereillo insisted he isn't encouraging motorists to break the law or drive dangerously, saying drivers who speed are bound to do so anyway.

And he said police officials he's talked to haven't complained about the service because it inevitably encourages drivers to slow down. (The International Association of Chiefs of Police did not respond to requests for comment.)

The free service can automatically detect location using mobile devices' GPS capabilities or tap their Wi-Fi and get location from a database run by Skyhook Wireless. (Skyhook sends trucks up and down streets to scan for home wireless routers or commercial hotspots and record the unique identifying code and location of each.)

Information about red-light cameras and where police tend to operate speed traps is kept in Trapster's database indefinitely. Information about active speed traps is kept for an hour, with the idea that officers may move on.

Users can choose the types of cameras or traps for which they want alerts.

To discourage pranksters and law-enforcement officials from flooding the system with bogus locations, users can rate others on the accuracy of their contributions, and those getting better ratings will carry more weight.

Trapster can be used with about 10 different wireless platforms, including Nokia Corp.'s smart phones, devices using Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Mobile and BlackBerry units from Research In Motion Ltd.



Digital picture frames by Westinghouse Digital, from left, Kodak, Smartparts and Ceiva Logic.
THE WASHINGTON POST

By ROB PEGORARO
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Digital picture frames have quickly gone from expensive technological baubles to cut-rate commodities that you grab on your way out of the store. For not much more than the price of a professionally framed 8-by-10 print, one of these compact LCD screens can show off hundreds of vacation photos.

They can provide an elegant solution to the problem of sharing all the shots you accumulate with a digital camera. But, as I found while testing four new models—made by Ceiva Logic, Kodak, Smartparts and Westinghouse Digital—they can also combine the worst traits of computers and electronic gadgets.

As the prices of digital frames have plunged, the devices have also grown more complex as each manufacturer reaches for ways to make its product stand out. The frames read photos saved on a memory card or USB flash drive plugged into the back. Most can also store photos in built-in memory and play music and video. Many come with remote controls and can connect to a home network.

Not all of the add-on features are worth using. A digital picture frame's innards may hide some of the same ingredients as a personal computer, but that doesn't mean it should act like one on the outside.

Picture imperfect

Consider one of the most common bonus functions on digital frames, the ability to play video. It makes sense: Digital cameras can record short video clips as well as take still pictures. But watching these mini-movies on these frames can be distinctly unpleasant.

Only Kodak's \$199.95, 8-inch EX811 acted as you might expect, correctly playing the short clips stored on a USB flash drive and a memory card plugged into the device. On Westinghouse's \$199, 10-inch DPF-1021, the clips played back without any sound and at a small fraction of their original speed.

Smartparts' \$299.99, 12-inch SPX12 stalled at a screen announcing that its SyncPix software had detected the drive and the card. And Ceiva's \$224.99, 8-inch Ceiva Life frame couldn't play video at all.

Music seems almost as important. After all, what's a slide show without a soundtrack? But although both the Kodak and Smartparts frames could play MP3 files, there was no simple way to shuffle the playback of music files accompanying a group of pictures. Result: After hearing U2's "Beautiful Day" repeatedly accompanying every slide show, I'm going to need to take a break from that song.

Another obvious feature, the

ability to connect to a home network to show pictures stored on your computer or a photo-sharing Web site, is absent from most digital frames. Of the four I tried, only the Kodak included a WiFi receiver; on the Ceiva, adding WiFi required a \$34.95 adapter that plugs into a USB port behind the frame.

Kodak and Ceiva limit the utility of the wireless connections to a few preset functions. The Kodak could display only photos hosted by the company's EasyShare Gallery Web site. That may make sense in terms of Kodak's corporate politics, but not if you keep your pictures on Yahoo's Flickr or Google's Picasa.

Sharing your computer's photos wirelessly ought to be simpler, but Kodak's carelessness makes doing so even less straightforward. You have to disregard the Kodak EasyShare software in favor of Microsoft's Windows Media Player program to put your shots in the frame.

The Ceiva frame's networking was even more underdone. It doesn't allow any computer-to-frame transfer over a home network, instead limiting you to sending pictures via the company's \$99.95-a-year Picture Plan online service (which throws in such bonus content as weather and sports updates).

The greatest failing of these

frames wasn't any one missing feature but their overall clumsiness. I kept running into silly little usability flaws that should have been fixed early in the design stage but survived to become constant nuisances.

Kodak's limited but still somewhat useful multimedia and networking capabilities made it the best of a mediocre lot, but its remote control worked only if I aimed it right at the middle of the frame. The Smartparts frame tried to liven up a slide show by panning across photos, Ken Burns style, but ruined the effect with jerky motion. The Westinghouse frame's mosaic-style display of two or three photos at once provided the niftiest photo-viewing option, but it appeared to freeze up several times, leaving the screen blank and its buttons unresponsive. And the Ceiva's way of telling me that I had the wrong network setting was a screen full of gobbledegook, such as "MA ER:eth0 not found."

These frames were far more pleasant when they (and I) didn't try so hard. When I gave up on most of the features advertised on these things' boxes and just popped in a memory card full of photos before sitting back and enjoying the view, there was little to object to. That's the simplicity the designers of these things should be aiming for: Gawking at your latest photos ought to be a vacation from everyday computing, not an addition to it.

Surface computer arrives at AT&T first

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Surface, the software maker's coffee-table shaped touch-screen computer, will make its debut as a marketing tool in a handful of AT&T Inc.'s wireless stores April 17.

The Surfaces—22 in all—are programmed to recognize eight of AT&T's wireless phones. When a customer places one or more phones on the table, information about features pops up. Shoppers can also zoom around AT&T's coverage map and learn about calling plans by moving their hands across the screen.

The machines are intended to help salespeople, not replace them, AT&T said.

Microsoft Corp. unveiled Surface last May, and said the Windows Vista-based machines would first appear in T-Mobile USA stores and properties owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. and Harrah's Entertainment Inc. Those partners planned to have Surface running by November, but later delayed the launch by several months.

Mark Bolger, senior director of marketing for Surface, said those companies are still working on software appropriate for their own brands and locations.



In this photo provided by Microsoft/AT&T, a Microsoft Surface is demonstrated on March 27, 2008.

Sound monitors protect premature babies

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Warning lights hover over the snoozing patients in Riley Hospital for Children's neonatal intensive care unit, ready to flash whenever sound levels creep beyond normal conversation. As decibels rise, the colors on the new monitoring system change from green to yellow to red, hushing chatty parents or doctors



A sound level indicator of the Sonicu system hangs from the ceiling of the neonatal intensive care unit at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

so the babies get the rest they need to develop.

Noise louder than roughly the level of conversation can cause premature or sick babies' hearts to beat too fast or too slowly, said Dr. William Engle, a neonatologist at Riley. And interfering with babies' vital signs or sleep can slow development and healing because their bodies do most of that work while they sleep.

"The function of babies is

to grow and develop, and in between they eat," he said.

Preemies also need quiet so they can learn their mother's voice and their brains can figure out how to process sound, things that normally happen in the last trimester before birth.

"It's definitely a great idea," Dr. Bob White, a neonatologist at South Bend's Memorial Hospital, said of the monitoring

expand nationally.

Smith, 43, had no training as a sound engineer and no plans to become an entrepreneur when his son Sean was born five weeks premature in 2000. But he noticed Sean flinch in response to bright light in the NICU of St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, and he wound up designing a system to soften the unit's lighting.

Then the nurses asked him what he could do about sound.

"That's really when I realized that there was no good way out there to measure sound, other than your standard, hand-held meter," he said.

Babies born too soon lose the muffling effect of the womb before their ears can filter sound, White said.

"The sounds ... come from all different directions and all different sources, and they're often associated with unpleasant sensations for the baby," White said.

NICUs are rife with noise pollution created by employees, equipment and excited family members.

"There's no good way for the nurses or doctors to walk up to a parent, tap them on the shoulder and say, 'You're being too loud,'" Smith said. "That's confrontational."

Inventor Chris Smith hopes doctors around the country agree with White. He has sold his Sonicu system to several Indiana hospitals and wants to

He said all three plan on deploying Surface this spring.

But AT&T got there first, with creative help from Avenue A/Razorfish, a design studio Microsoft acquired when it bought aQuantive last year.

"We saw that announcement and immediately began discussions with Microsoft," said

Andy Austin, a director of retail customer experience at AT&T. "Obviously I cannot speak to other launch partners, but we are very happy to be their first launch partner."

One of the perks of putting Surface into stores fastest, Austin said, was some influence over design. AT&T's

Heat from data center to warm a pool

A new computer center in Switzerland is making novel use of the hot air thrown off by its servers and communications equipment: The heat is being funneled next door to warm the local swimming pool.

When computing companies talk about "greening" their energy-guzzling data centers, that usually means powering the centers with renewable sources or using more-efficient servers.

In a few cases, the heat produced by the computers

is used to warm nearby offices. In what appears to be a first, the town pool in Uitikon, Switzerland, outside Zurich, will be the beneficiary of the waste heat from a data center recently built by IBM Corp. for GIB-Services AG.

As in all data centers, air conditioners will blast the computers with chilly air—to keep the machines from exceeding their optimum temperature of around 70 degrees—and pump hot air out.

Usually, the hot air is vented

outdoors and wasted. In the Uitikon center, it will flow through heat exchangers to warm water that will be pumped into the nearby pool. The town covered the cost of some of the connecting equipment but will get to use the heat for free.

Steven Sams, a data center services vice president for IBM, said the Swiss project should be a model. After all, IBM says, the computers in the Uitikon center will throw off enough heat to warm as many as 80 houses.

Cell boosters coming for the home

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Verizon Wireless is joining Sprint Nextel Corp. in jumping on the latest craze in the wireless world: little boxes called femtocells that boost cell-phone coverage in subscribers' homes.

"Our plans are to deploy femtocells in 2008," Verizon Wireless' Chief Technology Officer, Tony Melone, said Wednesday at the CTIA Wireless industry show in Las Vegas.

Much is unclear about the plan, including how much Verizon Wireless plans to charge. But Melone said the company was gearing up for a full-fledged rollout.

Sprint is the only other carrier that is conducting more than a small trial with the technology, but it is selling femtocells only in Denver, Indianapolis and Nashville, Tenn.

When it launched the program last year, Sprint said it was planning to take the offer nationwide this year, but it hasn't announced any specific plans to do so.

Femtocells address a challenge for the industry as more and more people drop their landlines: poor cellular coverage within the home. Femtocells tackle that by projecting a cellular signal in the home, much like a base station for a cordless phone. They look much like Wi-Fi routers, which have become a common household appliance. The term femtocells contrasts them with cellular towers that provide coverage outdoors—"femto" is a scientific term for something very small.

But are customers ready to bring another electronic box into the house?

Femtocell vendors at the show say "yes"—because the devices solve a lot of problems for carriers.

"It's so much to their benefit to get these into people's homes that they're going to subsidize

these things," said Paul Callahan, vice president of business development for Airvana Inc. The Chelmsford, Mass., company makes femtocells that are being tested by several carriers around the world.

Not only do femtocells improve coverage indoors, where the carrier has a hard time reaching, they also reduce the load on regular, outdoor cellular towers.

Perhaps best of all, the device sends all calls over the subscriber's home broadband connection, usually DSL or ca-



Airvana's femtocells are pictured at the CTIA wireless show at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 in Las Vegas.

ble, so the carrier doesn't have to pay to carry the traffic from the femtocell to its network. "Backhaul" traffic, which runs calls from cellular towers to the wired network, is a major cost for carriers.

There's still some skepticism toward the technology. Carl-Henric Svanberg, chief executive of major telecom gear supplier LM Ericsson AB, sounded a note caution at the show.

"Every year there is a bit of a hype around something," Svanberg told an industry audience. "Femto on the surface has a lot

"Where we spend a lot of time is figuring, 'Where is that balance? Where does it make sense for our customers, and where does it fit into our strategy?'" Melone said.

Airvana's Callahan believes that by next year, the cost will come toward \$150 as more suppliers get into the market.

T-Mobile USA is taking another and potentially less costly route—selling phones that can use either cellular networks or Wi-Fi, which many broadband households have already. Households that lack Wi-Fi routers can buy them cheaply. That technology, called Unlicensed Mobile Access, has traction among overseas carriers as well. The drawback of UMA is that it requires mobile phones with Wi-Fi.

With Verizon Wireless, Sprint and T-Mobile USA all using or planning to use femtocells or UMA, that leaves AT&T Inc. among the four largest carriers. Spokesman Mark Siegel said the company is looking at the technology, but is in the very early stages of doing so.

Forrester Research analyst Charles Golvin thinks the real opportunity is for landline phone companies to bundle femtocells with DSL.

Life & Style

9 schools participate in Kick Butts Day

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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 REPORTER

Hundreds of students from nine different schools marched to the Carolinian Affair's Office Wednesday afternoon for the Department of Public Health Community Guidance Center's 4th Annual Kick Butts Day March and rally.

The nine schools were Dandan Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Kagman High School, ChaCha Jr. High School, Grace Christian Academy, Hopwood Jr. High School and Marianas High School.

Each school had the chance to show off their school banners to represent their school spirit as they marched against smoking.

At least 22 CNMI groups and organizations held exhibits while Mister

and Miss Teen Role Models Anthony Tenorio and Alana May Leon Guerrero kept the rest of the crowd entertained.

According to Tobacco program coordinator Edward DLC. Camacho, the turnout of this year's event was successful.

"Many people commended us for this year's Kick Butts Day," Camacho said.

Office of Youth Affairs' Mike Maniglona said that Kick Butts Day encourages a healthy lifestyle that is drug- and tobacco-free.

The march started at the Garapan Fishing Base up to the Carolinian Affair's office.

KBD was first held four years ago as a way for the youth to take a stand, speak up and seize control in the fight against tobacco.

Kagman High School's Teen Talkers display their placards as they speak up and take action against tobacco use during the 4th Annual Kick Butts Day March and rally.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Clair, 2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja and other students hold the main banner as they lead the march from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affair's Office in Beach Road Garapan.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A student shouts as she flashes her placard promoting a drug-free CNMI during the parade.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Oleai Elementary School students and teachers grace the annual event.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Students and teachers from San Vicente Elementary School march against tobacco.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Garapan Elementary School students and teachers show their school spirit in fighting tobacco use.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of youth march from Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affair's Office.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Mt. Carmel School's National Honor Society take the lead in the fight against tobacco.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Kagman High School's Rifle team chant as they march toward the Carolinian Affair's Office.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A student checks out the displays at the Department of Public Health's dental clinic booth.

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

The Appeal, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire enlists political help to kill a \$41-million jury award over toxic-waste dumping.

Lush Life, by Richard Price (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: \$26) The layered lives of victims and perpetrators are explored in the aftermath of a Manhattan shooting.

The Silver Swan, by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt: \$25) Dublin pathologist Garret Quirke doubts suicide as the cause of a woman's death.

Change of Heart, by Jodi Picoult (Atria: \$26.95) A killer offers to donate his heart to his victim's sister.

A Prisoner of Birth, by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's: \$27.95) An illiterate Londoner is framed for his future brother-in-law's murder.

Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana, by Anne Rice (Knopf: \$25.95) Jesus seeks a sense of purpose among his kin before facing his destiny.

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead: \$25.95) Two Afghan women struggle to survive jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny.

7th Heaven, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99) Detective Lindsay Boxer seeks a murderous arsonist and a missing teen.

Friend of the Devil, by Peter Robinson (William Morrow: \$24.95) Two cops parse feelings for each other as they investigate a pair of gruesome murders.

Killer Heat, by Linda Fairstein (Doubleday: \$26) Manhattan prosecutor Alex Cooper seeks a serial killer of military women.

Nonfiction

Beautiful Boy, by David Sheff (Houghton Mifflin: \$24) A father's struggle with his son's meth addiction.

Human Smoke, by Nicholson Baker (Simon & Schuster: \$30) How bigotry and anti-communism influenced Allied leaders before World War II.

The Third Jesus, by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$24) The case for a more mystical interpretation of Jesus.

In Defense of Food, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.

STORI Telling, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: \$24.95) The 90210 star tells all.

Stop Whining, Start Living, by Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins: \$24.95) Tips on getting out of a rut.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Manic, by Terri Cheney (Publisher: \$24.95) A onetime entertainment lawyer explains being bipolar.

Losing It, by Valerie Bertinelli (Free Press: \$26) How the TV star-turned-rock 'n' roll wife got her life back.

The Dangerous Book for Boys, by Conn and Hal Iggulden (HarperCollins: \$24.95) Learn how to tie knots, find true north and perform other skills. (c) 2008 Los Angeles Times)

Genetic link tied to smoking addiction



Cigarettes are shown in an ash tray in this 2006 file photo.

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have pinpointed genetic variations that make people more likely to get hooked on cigarettes and more prone to develop lung cancer—a finding that could someday lead to screening tests and customized treatments for smokers trying to kick the habit.

The discovery by three separate teams of scientists makes the strongest case so far for the biological underpinnings of nicotine addiction and sheds more light on how genetics and lifestyle habits join forces to cause cancer.

"This is kind of a double whammy gene," said Christopher Amos, a professor of epidemiology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and author of one of the studies. "It also makes you more likely to be dependent on smoking and less likely to quit smoking."

A smoker who inherits these genetic variations from both parents has an 80 percent greater chance of lung cancer than a smoker without the variants, the researchers reported. And that same smoker on average lights up two extra cigarettes a day and has a much harder time quitting than smokers who don't have these genetic differences.

The researchers disagreed on whether the variants directly increased the risk of lung cancer or did so indirectly, by causing more smoking.

The three studies, funded by governments in the U.S. and Europe, are being published Thursday in the journals *Nature* and *Nature Genetics*.

The scientists studied the genes of more than 35,000 white people of European descent in Europe, Canada and the United States. Blacks and Asians will be studied soon and may yield different results, scientists said.

They aren't quite sure if what they found is a set of variations in one gene or in three closely connected genes.

The gene variations, which govern nicotine receptors on cells, could eventually help explain some of the mysteries of chain smoking, nicotine addiction and lung cancer. These oddities include why there are 90-year-old smokers who don't get cancer and people who light up an occasional cigarette and don't get hooked.

"This is really telling us that the vulnerability to smoking and how much you smoke is clearly biologically based," said psychiatry professor Dr. Laura Bierut of Washington University in St. Louis, a genetics and smoking expert who did not take part in the studies. She praised the research as "very intriguing."

The smoking rate among U.S. adults has dropped from 42 percent in 1965 to less than 21 percent now.

The new studies are surprising in that they point to areas of the genetic code that are not associated with pleasure and the rewards of addiction.

That may help explain why some people can quit and others fail, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Md., which funded one of the studies.

"It opens our eyes," Volkow said Wednesday. "Not everyone takes drugs for the same reason. Not everyone smokes cigarettes for the same reasons."

If that sounds like good news to you, don't cheer too loudly. The time does not count foreplay, and the therapists did rate sexual intercourse that lasts from 1 to 2 minutes as "too short."

Researcher Eric Carty said he hoped to ease the minds of those who believe that "more of something good is better, and if you really want to satisfy your partner, you should last forever."

One clue is in the location of the just-discovered variants, on the long arm of chromosome 15, Volkow said. It is in an area that, when damaged during tests on animals, makes them depressed and anxious. While some people smoke because it helps them focus or gives them a physiological reward, others do it to stave off depression.

That suggests that adding antidepressants to some smokers' treatment could help them kick the habit.

Bierut said a simple, inexpensive test could be developed to screen people for the variants. Kari Stefansson, lead author of the largest of the three studies, agreed. He is chief executive of deCode Genetics of Iceland, which already does prostate cancer genetic tests.

Such testing could carry risks all its own, bioethicist Arthur Caplan of the University of Pennsylvania warned. People who have been found to have a genetic predisposition to addiction and lung cancer could find it harder to get health or life insurance, or their employer might drop their coverage, he said.

"The good news is that getting these risk estimates will help focus anti-smoking campaigns, and some people will want to voluntarily get into anti-addiction programs early, where they will probably work better," Caplan said in an e-mail. But if such testing is done, it should be voluntary, and the results should be kept private, he said.

Smoking-related diseases worldwide kill about one in 10 adults, according to the World Health Organization.

Among the findings:

■ Smokers who get the set of variants from only one parent see a risk of lung cancer that is about

one-third higher than that of people without the variants. They also smoke about one more cigarette a day on average than other smokers. This group makes up about 45 percent of the population studied.

■ Smokers who inherit the variants from both parents have nearly a 1-in-4 chance of developing lung cancer. Their cancer risk is 70 to 80 percent higher than that of smokers without the genetic variants. They smoke on average two extra cigarettes a day. This group accounts for about one in nine people of European descent.

■ Smokers who don't have the variants are still more than 10 times more likely to get lung cancer than nonsmokers. Smokers without the variant have about a 14 percent risk of getting lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer for people who have never smoked is less than 1 percent, said another study author, Paul Brennan of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France.

Brennan and Amos, working on different teams, linked the genetic variation itself—when triggered by smoking—directly to lung cancer. Brennan said the nicotine receptors that the variants act on also can stimulate tumor growth.

But Stefansson said the increased lung cancer risk was indirect—the variants led to more smoking, which led to more cancer.

For Stefansson, the research hits home. His father, a smoker, died of lung cancer. And Stefansson, who doesn't smoke, frequently lectures his 23-year-old daughter "who smokes like a chimney." She acts as if she is immortal and smoking can't kill her, Stefansson said. But his own research shows that her genes are probably stacked against her.

Sex therapists report: A few minutes is best

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe men had it right all along: It doesn't take long to satisfy a woman in bed. A survey of sex therapists concluded the optimal amount of time for sexual intercourse was 3 to 13 minutes. The findings, to be published in the May issue of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, strike at the notion that endurance is the key to a great sex life.

If that sounds like good news to you, don't cheer too loudly. The time does not count foreplay, and the therapists did rate sexual intercourse that lasts from 1 to 2 minutes as "too short."

Researcher Eric Carty said he hoped to ease the minds of those who believe that "more of something good is better, and if you really want to satisfy your partner, you should last forever."

The questions were not gender-specific, said Carty (who, it must be noted, is male). But he said prior research has shown that both men and women want foreplay and sexual intercourse to last longer.

Dr. Irwin Goldstein, editor of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, cited a four-week study of 1,500 couples in 2005 that found the median time for sexual intercourse was 7.3 minutes. (Women were armed with stopwatches.)

It's difficult for both older men and young men to make sexual intercourse last much longer, said Marianne Brandon, a clinical psychologist and director of Wellminds Wellbodies in Annapolis, Md.

"There are so many myths in our culture of what other people are doing sexually," Brandon

said. "Most people's sex lives are not as exciting as other people think they are."

Fifty members of the Society for Sex Therapy and Research in the U.S. and Canada were surveyed by Carty, an associate professor of psychology at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and student Jenay Guardiani. Thirty-four members, or 68 percent, responded, although some said the optimal time depended on the couple.

Carty said he hoped to give an idea of what therapists find to be normal and satisfactory among the couples they see.

"People who read this will say, 'I last five minutes or my partner lasts 8 minutes,' and say, 'That's OK,'" he said. "They will relax a little bit."

Woodruff, Dozier get Peabody Awards

ATHENS, Ga. (AP)—Stories about wounded Iraq veterans, reported by war-wounded TV journalists, won Peabody Awards on Wednesday.

Thirty-five recipients of the 67th annual George Foster Peabody awards for broadcasting excellence in news and entertainment were announced by the University of Georgia ahead of a ceremony in New York City on June 16.

Peabodys went to “Wounds of War—The Long Road Home for Our Nation’s Veterans,” a series of reports by ABC News correspondent Bob Woodruff, and to “CBS News Sunday Morning: The Way Home” for Kimberly Dozier’s piece about two women veterans who lost limbs in Iraq.



In this file photo provided by ABC News, correspondent Bob Woodruff looks out the window of an Army helicopter on route to Taji, Iraq, Jan. 27, 2006 on assignment for ABC News.

CBS reduces TV stations' staffs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS-owned TV stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago are reducing their news staffs. The cuts include two well-known anchors in Los Angeles, five on-air veterans in San Francisco and one of Chicago’s highest-paid anchors.

About a dozen news staffers will depart KCBS-TV and KCAL-TV in Los Angeles, according to a person who works at one of the CBS-owned stations and requested anonymity because policy prohibits disclosing personnel matters.

The person told The Associated Press on Tuesday that long-time anchors Ann Martin and Harold Greene will leave when their contracts expire in May. Others, including reporters Jennifer Sabih and Jennifer Davis, were laid off Monday.

Technical staff was also trimmed, the person said.

A call seeking comment from Greene, Martin, Sabih and Davis was not immediately returned.

In San Francisco, KPIX-TV is letting go 14 newsroom employees, including anchor and reporter Rick Quan, and reporters Manny Ramos, Bill Schechner, Tony Russomano and John Lobertini, the San Francisco

Chronicle reported Tuesday. A KPIX-TV spokeswoman would not confirm the number being cut except for the five on-air staffers.

Layoffs extended beyond the newsroom to other divisions of both KPIX and KBCW-TV, a San Francisco-based CW affiliate, KPIX communications director Akilah Monifa told The Associated Press.

“It was our decision in these economic times to try to go forward and do the best as we could with our stations,” said Monifa.

In Chicago, cost-cutting at WBBM-TV has claimed at least 18 jobs including that of anchor Diann Burns, who earned \$2 million a year, lead sportscaster Mark Malone, and Mary Ann Childers, an anchor-turned-health correspondent.

Joe Ahern, WBBM president and general manager, told the Chicago Tribune no department was exempt. He said cuts were in the “single-digit” percentage of the WBBM work force of more than 200.

“We have to rethink how we do business,” Ahern told the newspaper.

Burns’ agent and husband, Marc Watts, said the station did not renew her contract.

Fox held its ratings top spot last week

NEW YORK (AP)—Singing and dancing scored again with viewers last week. Fox’s “American Idol” placed first and second in the ratings, according to Nielsen Media Research, with ABC’s two editions of “Dancing With the Stars” right behind.

CBS’s crime drama, “CSI: Miami,” followed in fifth place. But the week’s most-watched shows were chiefly in the reality area. ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” “Oprah’s Big Give” and “Primetime: What Would You Do?,” CBS’ “60 Minutes” and an NCAA championship basketball game (Louisville vs. UNC), NBC’s “Celebrity Apprentice” and

Dozier and Woodruff survived near-fatal attacks while on assignment in Iraq.

Another CBS News series, “60 Minutes,” won a Peabody for Scott Pelley’s report, “The Killings in Haditha.”

“The range of genres, the variety of topics and the consistently high quality of submissions for Peabody consideration indicated again that amazing work is being done in electronic media,” Peabody Awards director Horace Newcomb said in a statement.

Awards also went to Discovery’s “Planet Earth,” which used HDTV technology to showcase natural wonders of the world; “Independent Lens” for “Billy Strayhorn: Lush Life,” a portrait of Duke Ellington’s musical col-

laborator; “NATURE: Silence of the Bees,” an inquiry into the decline in the world’s honeybee population from Thirteen/WNET; and WGBH-Boston’s “Design Squad,” an engineering competition for young people.

Awards for entertainment series went to “30 Rock,” Tina Fey’s send-up of TV sketch shows and her own network, NBC; and “Project Runway,” Bravo’s fashion-designer competition.

Peabodys also went to “Mad Men,” AMC’s drama set in the world of 1960s New York advertising, and “Dexter,” Showtime’s drama about a serial killer who preys on other sociopaths. “Nimrod Nation,” an eight-part documentary series from Sundance Channel,

also received a Peabody.

Other recipients included Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report” and “A Journey Across Afghanistan: Opium and Roses,” a documentary from Bulgaria’s Balkan News Corporation.

“Whole Lotta Shakin,” the Texas Heritage Music Foundation’s public-radio series chronicling the 1950s heyday of rockabilly music received a Peabody, as did “Univision’s Ya Es Hora,” a public-service campaign that taught legal aliens how to apply for American citizenship.

The University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication has administered the Peabodys in Athens, Ga., since the program’s inception in 1940. The awards ceremony in New York will be hosted by NBC news anchor Brian Williams.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Mr. Julian Attao Concepcion
also known as "Jude"



Passed away on Monday, March 31, 2008 at Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan.
Jude was born on Saipan September 26, 1951. He was 56 years old.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Mother: Carmen Attao Concepcion
Sister/Brother: Vicky C. Tudela, Henry A. Concepcion, Maria A. Concepcion
Sister-in-Law: Celina C. Concepcion
Maternal Grandparents: Soledad Cabrera San Nicolas & Vicente Magofna Attao
Paternal Grandparents: Rosa Quitano Taitano & Julian Cruz Concepcion
Mother In Law: Trinidad Arriola Borja
Niece & Nephew: Raelene Salas Concepcion, Joey Sablan Borja
Numerous Aunties & Uncles

His memories will live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Victoria Borja Concepcion
Children: Cartrina Concepcion & LJ Deleon Guerrero (Julian Joseph) Tanya Concepcion & John Iguel (Trini Marie) Lorna Concepcion & John Paul Flores (Juden & Rocco) Victor Jude Concepcion & Roxanne Pangelinan

Father: Cesario Taitano Concepcion
Brothers/Sisters and Spouses:
(†)Victoria Concepcion & Joaquin /Annie Tudela & Children Edward & Dorothy Concepcion & Children Serafino Concepcion Alice C. & Jess Taitano & Children Julie C. & Frank Crisostomo & Children Vicente & Mel Concepcion & Children Linda Concepcion Pat C. & Tony Sablan & Children Danny & Virginia Concepcion & Children Richard & Lucy Concepcion & Children Frances C. & Joe Agulto & Children Winnie C. & Patrick Celis & Children

Father In-Law: Victorino Tudela Borja
Brothers/Sisters In Law and Spouses: Rose & Kilroy Guerrero & Children Lucy & Greg Hurst & Children Joe & Evelyn Borja & Children John & Jessica Borja & Children

Reared Son: Carlos Ketebengang
Numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces & Nephew, God Children

Schedule of Services:
Daily Masses is being offered every morning at 6:00 am at Kristo Rai Church. And a nightly rosary is being said every evening at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church starting from March 31, 2008 to April 07, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 08, 2008, his remains will be escorted at 7:30 am from Borja's Funeral Home to The Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be commence at 11:00 am & Interment services will be followed at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery Chalan Kanoa.

Please join us in prayers.

Mrs. Victoria Borja Concepcion, Children & Family.

Safely Home

I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.
Did you wonder how I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh, but Jesus' love illuminated
Every dark and fearful glade.
And he came himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remains,
You shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

There are no words that can adequately express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the kind expression to us on the First Death Anniversary of our Dearly Beloved MOM



Andrea Roberto Camacho

Your kindness, prayers and thoughtfulness are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express. Please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU, SI YU'US MA'ASe AND MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!

GINEN I FAMAGUON

From our Hearts to Yours

From the bottom of our hearts, we the children and our families of the late

TRINIDAD ARRIOLA BENAVENTE

would like to extend our most profound and deepest gratitude to all of our extended families and friends for the overwhelming expressions of love, thoughtful gestures, kindness, prayers and most especially for your PRESENCE AT THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION.

To Fr. Ryan and Fr. Jesse, we are truly blessed that you both are a part of our Mother's weekly Eucharist and to Fr. Glen, Fr. Rey, Fr. Charlie, Fr. Manny and Fr. Isaac for being a part of a beautiful EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION.

To the Our Techa, Juanita, si Yu'us Ma'aSe.

To Virgie, Aurie and Tess, no words will be enough to express our gratitude for being there for "Nang" and for being loving and forgiving, Salamat Po.

To Paula & Maisie, you are both truly God's gift to all of us, in guaiya hao.

To the Neo-Catecumenal Communities of San Vicente and San Jose for the beautiful songs, and Luigi, you made NANG's day a special one, si Yu'us Ma'aSe.

WE WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU.

Si Yu'us un fan Benendise, ginan hame as Luis, Norbert, Rita, Margarita, Mina, Bernita yan Adrienne.

Mariah Carey surpasses Elvis in No. 1s

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With her 18th chart-topper “Touch My Body,” Mariah Carey has passed Elvis Presley for the most No. 1 singles on the Billboard singles chart, and is now second only to the Beatles. But while the diva was in full celebration mode after learning of her latest milestone, she was also quick to put her accomplishment in perspective.

“I really can never put myself in the category of people who have not only revolutionized music but also changed the world,” Carey told The Associated Press on Tuesday via phone from London. “That’s a completely different era and time ... I’m just feeling really happy and grateful.”

Carey’s single is the new No. 1 single on Billboard’s Hot 100 singles chart: The song also is No. 1 on the trade magazine’s digital download chart thanks to a precedent-setting 286,000 downloads in its debut week. She had been tied with Presley with 17 No. 1 singles; the Beatles are the all-time leaders with 20. (Madonna also beat a Presley record this week, surpassing the King for the most top 10 hits with her 37th for her hit “4 Minutes.”)

Carey said being in such company was gratifying not only because of her personal success, but what it meant for women and minorities.

“For me, in my mind the ac-



AP
Singer Mariah Carey makes an appearance on MTV’s Total Request Live, in this Feb. 27, 2008, file photo in New York.

complishment is just that much sweeter,” she said. “In terms of my ethnicity, always feeling like an outsider, always feeling different ... for me it’s about saying, ‘Thank you Lord, for giving me the faith to believe in myself when other people had written me off.’”

“Touch My Body” is the first single off of Carey’s upcoming album “EMC2,” due out April 16. It is the follow-up to her Grammy-winning disc “The Emancipation of Mimi,” released in 2005, that year’s best-selling album with five million copies sold; it marked a huge comeback for the multiplatinum superstar after personal and professional setbacks.

Like that album, Carey said “EMC2” continues her sense of freedom and rebirth: “It’s like emancipation of Mariah Carey to the second power and beyond.”

Carey, 38, said this is the most enjoyable point of her nearly two-decade old career, and that’s her priority these days, not trying to set sales records or even making pop history.

“I’ve gone through enough of my life worrying about that kind of thing,” said Carey.

“I want to encourage anyone else out there who feels like maybe they can’t overcome an obstacle, I feel like I’m living proof ... never lose your faith,” she added. “I’m seriously a grateful individual right now.”

Paramount to open virtual movie vault

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paramount Pictures’ film vault is opening up in the virtual world.

Thousands of video clips from Paramount’s movie library—ranging from “Footloose” to “Clueless”—will be available inside the virtual 3-D online worlds of There.com and vMTV, Paramount Digital Entertainment and Makena Technologies Inc. announced Wednesday.

“Consumers today are not interested in a passive experience online,” Paramount senior vice president of entertainment Derek Broes told The Associated Press. “Even when they are just watching a piece of entertainment, they’re commenting on it or looking at it with a friend. They’re very actively involved.”

There.com and vMTV members will be able to express themselves with seconds-long video clips of movie one liners—say,

Danny Zuko’s “Be cool, huh?” from “Grease”—with the service called VooZoo. The application from Los Angeles-based developer FanRocket was introduced on social-networking site Facebook last month and on mobile devices Tuesday.

The PG-13-or-tamer snippets will cost There.com and vMTV members about \$1 and will play in a small window above avatars’ heads inside the online realms.

In addition to archive footage, Paramount hopes to use the application to virally market upcoming releases, such as “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.”

The partnership between Paramount, MTV Networks—both units of Viacom Inc.—and Makena Technologies, the San Mateo, Calif.-based company behind There.com, marks the first time a movie studio has allowed movie footage to be used inside There.com.

Worker punished over Fawcett's records

LOSANGELES (AP)—UCLA Medical Center has disciplined an employee for snooping in Farrah Fawcett's medical records, the hospital said Wednesday, a few weeks after announcing that several employees were fired for taking peeks at Britney Spears' files.

Fawcett expressed concern to a doctor in May that details of her condition were being leaked to tabloids, and he reported it to hospital executives, UCLA spokeswoman Roxanne Moser said.

Fawcett's attorney, Kim Swartz, said an employee at the hospital accessed Fawcett's medical records without authorization, and details about her cancer treatment later showed up in the National Enquirer. The tabloid published details about a recurrence in Fawcett's cancer before she had a chance to tell family and friends, Swartz said.

"She's a very private person and she's reluctant to go public about this, let alone take legal action," Swartz said. "She's fighting for her life."

The Los Angeles Times reported on its Web site Wednesday that hospital officials fired an employee who reviewed Fawcett's records without authorization.

The UCLA spokeswoman would not confirm a firing and would not specify the disciplinary action.

Moser said the hospital requires all staff to complete training on patient privacy issues and



Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami, in this Aug. 29, 2004, file photo

sign confidentiality agreements.

Doctors declared Fawcett, 61, cancer-free in February 2007, but her cancer returned a few months later.

"It's disturbing to her when there are false reports that she's given up and wants to die, when the opposite is true," said

Swartz. "She's a strong person and a fighter."

Enquirer senior reporter Alan Smith told the Times that Fawcett's cancer is newsworthy.

"We publish what we believe is accurate," he said.

The 1970s television icon is currently being treated for

Reports: Jay-Z nears huge business deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay-Z is close to reaching a \$150 million deal with Live Nation Inc. that will give the concert promoter a stake in virtually every aspect of the rapper and entrepreneur's career, according to news reports.

The contract covers Jay-Z's music and music-related busi-

nesses for the next 10 years, the New York Times and Wall Street Journal reported on their Web sites late Wednesday, citing sources familiar with the agreement.

An after-hours call to a Live Nation spokesman seeking comment was not immediately returned late Wednesday.

As part of the arrangement, Jay-Z would get a \$25 million upfront payment, plus advance payments of \$10 million per album for a minimum of three albums and \$25 million toward concert tours. The company would also pay \$20 million in exchange for publishing, licensing and other rights.

Live Nation was also expected to commit \$50 million to finance Jay-Z's investments and his entertainment venture, to be called Roc Nation, which is expected to include his own record label, music publishing, talent consulting and managing projects.

"I've turned into the Rolling Stones of hip-hop," Jay-Z told the Times.

Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, plans to leave Def Jam for the deal, but he still owes his longtime record label one more studio album.

He was president of Def Jam for three years but stepped down in December because he and the label's corporate parent, Universal Music Group, could not agree on a new contract.

Live Nation also struck recent deals with Madonna and U2.



Jay-Z holds his four MTV Video Music awards in Miami, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004.

cancer in Germany.

"She is cautiously optimistic," Craig J. Nevius told the Times. Nevius is producing a documentary about the former star of "Charlie's Angels" and her battle with cancer.

"Farrah has learned the hard way that with cancer, the test is time. At the moment she has no detectable cancer," he said.

Last month, UCLA Medical Center announced the firing of 13 workers and disciplined several others for snooping into Spears' records.

The California Department of Public Health launched an inquiry into UCLA's handling of Fawcett's files, just as it had after the Spears incident, the Times reported.

It was the second time that Fawcett's privacy had been breached at UCLA, according to the Times.

'American Idol' cuts another contestant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Say goodbye, Malubay. Ramiele Malubay—the diminutive singer with the big voice—was booted from "American Idol" as the show trimmed the competition to eight hopefuls.

Malubay, 20, of Miramar, Fla., crooned Dolly Parton's "Do I Ever Cross Your Mind" on Tuesday night's show. Paula Abdul enjoyed the performance. Randy Jackson thought it was OK. But Simon Cowell—not so much.

"Overall I thought it was forgettable, and I think it was very reminiscent of something you would see and hear on a cruise ship," the acerbic judge told Malubay.

Brooke White and Kristy Lee Cook were the other lowest vote-getters.

Fan favorite David Cook was back for the results show after having heart palpitations and high blood pressure near the end of Tuesday's sing-off.

The 25-year-old Missouri native—who was subsequently treated at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center—told host Ryan Seacrest that the "whole thing kind of got blown out of proportion.... I have high blood pressure, and it spiked."

Wednesday's show also featured performances by celebrity mentor Parton and The Clark Brothers.

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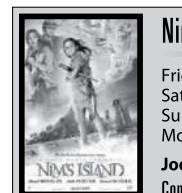
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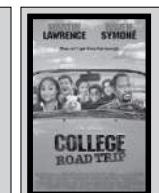
For Friday, April 4 through Thursday, April 10 only!

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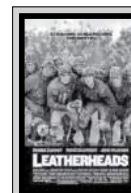
Nim's Island

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20
Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG



College Road Trip

Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:05
Martin Lawrence, Raven Symone
Comedy • Rated G



Leatherheads

Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
George Clooney, Renee Zellweger
Sports, Comedy • Rated PG13



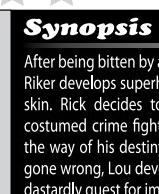
Drillbit Taylor

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Owen Wilson, Alex Frost
Comedy • Rated PG13



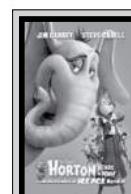
Superhero Movie

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13



Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."



Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 @ @
Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @
Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated G



Definitely Maybe

Friday 4:05 @ @
Saturday 1:05 4:05 @ @
Sunday 1:05 4:05 @ @
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 @ @
Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13



10,000 BC

Friday @ 7:10 9:50
Saturday @ @ 7:10 9:50
Sunday @ @ 7:10
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10
Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13



Never Back Down

Friday @ 7:30 9:55
Saturday @ @ 7:30 9:55
Sunday @ @ 7:30
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30
Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

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Woman charged with stalking John Cusack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman who was ordered to stay away from John Cusack was charged Wednesday with a felony count of stalking.

Emily Leatherman, 33, was also charged with misdemeanor counts of disobeying a court restraining order and petty theft in connection with her arrest outside the actor's Malibu house over the weekend.

She faces up to three years in state prison if convicted of the



Leatherman
stalking charge, and up to a year in jail if convicted of the misdemeanor counts, the district attorney's office said.

Leatherman pleaded not guilty in court hours after the charges were filed. She remained jailed on \$500,000 bail.

An operator at the Los Angeles County Jail did not know whether Leatherman had retained a lawyer.

Cusack, the star of "High Fidelity," "Say Anything" and dozens of other movies, was granted a restraining order in July 2006 stipulating that Leatherman stay at least 500 feet away from him, his home, his car and offices or companies in which he does business.

In court papers, Cusack said Leatherman "is showing unusual interest by stalking, throwing long letters of interest over my fence in bags with rocks and screwdrivers inside, making unannounced visits to offices of people I work with in an attempt to meet with me and listing my address as her own during a recent arrest."

'High School Musical 3' films in April

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The "High School Musical" gang is returning to Utah this month for their senior year.

Unlike its predecessors, the third installment in the series will be filmed during the school year at East High School in Salt Lake City.

Salt Lake City School District spokesman Jason Olsen says setting up will begin in a couple weeks and shooting will start toward the end of the month. He says much of the filming for "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" will take place before and after school to minimize disruptions.

The first two movies brought \$8 million and 180 jobs to the state during filming. The third project is slated to cost \$13 million.

David Beckham visits 'Tonight Show'

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—David Beckham got to know one of his neighbors on national television Tuesday. Since moving to Los Angeles to play for the Galaxy, Beckham has lived in the same neighborhood as Jay Leno, and on "The Tonight Show" Tuesday the men traded jokes about driving themselves places and life with a constant paparazzi presence.

Beckham apologized for the paparazzi hanging around the neighborhood, but also said American celebrity photographers "have been kind to us" compared to those across the pond.

Leno quizzed Beckham about Emporio Armani ads that feature the soccer star appearing in briefs.

"Do you normally sit around the house like this?" asked Leno.

Women in the live audience screamed and applauded the black and white photo showing Beckham's ripped stomach. However, Beckham said he was nervous during the photo shoot because his "mum" was going to see him lounging around in almost no clothing.

"When the photos came out, she was the first one to call me and say, 'What are you doing?' I had to try and explain it to her and it didn't go down that well," he said.



AP
David Beckham attends an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Washington Wizards, Sunday, March 30, 2008 in Los Angeles.

Celine Dion concert in Beijing canceled



Celine Dion performs at Caesars Palace hotel-casino in Las Vegas in this April 30, 2006 file photo.

BEIJING (AP)—Celine Dion canceled her concert in Beijing due to difficulty securing an appropriate venue, not because she was worried about sandstorms, her Web site said.

The Beijing News reported earlier this week that Dion's outdoor concert April 13 at Beijing's Worker's Stadium was canceled out of fear that sandstorms—which often hit Beijing in the spring—could harm her voice.

A statement posted Wednesday on Dion's Web site said after reviewing the situation it was decided an indoor venue would be more suitable, but one could not be secured in time. The statement denied that sandstorms played a part in the decision.

"I'm really sorry that things couldn't be worked out for the concert in Beijing. I was really looking forward to it," Dion said in the statement.

Dion's April 11 show in Shanghai will go ahead, and the singer will visit Beijing the next day to appear on her friend Yang Lan's TV show, the statement said. The canceled show will be rescheduled, it said.

Local promoter Emma Ticketmaster confirmed that the show had been canceled but did not give a reason.

Dion has rescheduled several shows in Australia and Malaysia over the past week because she has had a respiratory tract infection, her Web site said.

Levert's family asks FBI to probe death

to pay \$89,025 in child support.

McDonough said Levert was pounding on his cell door so guards strapped him in a restraint chair. Levert's breathing became shallow and he was taken to Lutheran Hospital, where he died less than an hour later.

An autopsy did not determine the cause of death. Toxicology tests are expected to take weeks.

FBI spokesman Scott Wilson says agents would meet with Levert's family.

Gerald Levert left the group

to start a solo career.

Woman questions her future with man clinging to his past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Gary" for four years. His late wife was his first and only relationship. When he moved in with me, he brought so many boxes they filled my entire basement. I want it cleared out because I don't feel I should have to store his past.

Gary's adult children have had the opportunity to take boxes home, but never do. When I asked him to clean things up, he responded by saying he doesn't feel at home here and will start looking for a place of his own.

For the most part, our relationship is a good one. I feel if he's ready to move on, he shouldn't have brought his past here with him -- including the urn containing his late wife's ashes. Am I wrong to feel this way?

—FEELING CROWDED, CARLIN, NEV.

DEAR FEELING CROWDED: While all of us bring the "baggage" of past relationships with us as we move through life, your friend has done it in a literal sense. If he was concerned about your feelings, he could rent a storage unit—but he hasn't. Telling you that if you insist he clear out the basement, he will clear you out of his life is emotional blackmail.

Perhaps it's time to ask yourself if this relationship is a healthy one. Could the boxes and the urn be symptoms of a larger problem? If so, then Gary should haul his ashes, boxes and self elsewhere.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a 20-year-old nephew I'll call "Adam," who sometimes lacks good judgment. We have told him that when he visits he should ask before drinking our milk. The price of milk has gone sky-high, and we have a 7-year-old who drinks a lot of it. We have had to tighten our purse strings and try to make a gallon last a week. When Adam comes over, he will drink two or three big glasses of it. Now, instead of asking, he sneaks it when we're not looking.

His mother, "Faye," is also my best friend. While she was visiting, Adam waited until we went into the family room, then consumed more than half of the gallon of milk we had just purchased. When we discovered what had happened, we called Adam on his cell phone and told him we weren't happy about it. Faye overheard the conversation.

When we saw her the next day, she didn't seem too upset about it. But now that she's back home in Florida, she hasn't returned any of my calls or e-mails. Could scolding Adam about the milk have anything to do with Faye's silence?

—SOURCED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR SOURED: If you explained to Adam that you and your husband are on a strict budget, and that you didn't want him to drink the milk, then he was wrong to help himself to it. It is not unheard of for a parent to become offended when someone scolds his or her child. That may be the reason you're getting the silent treatment. But no one can answer that question for sure other than Faye.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a very strict father. I respect what he has to say, but I don't like the fact that he won't let me have a boyfriend. He thinks all dudez are alike—well, most dudez at least. I need that li'l bit of advice, pleeeezz. Love always, BABI IN MILFORD, CONN.

DEAR BABI: Dadz can be that way sometimez. Perhaps yours is trying to prevent you from making an "S" of yourself.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

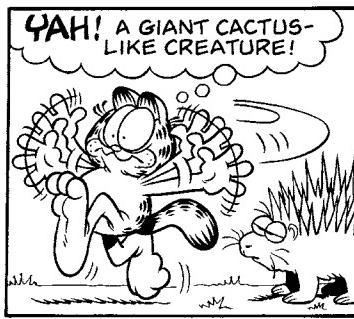
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



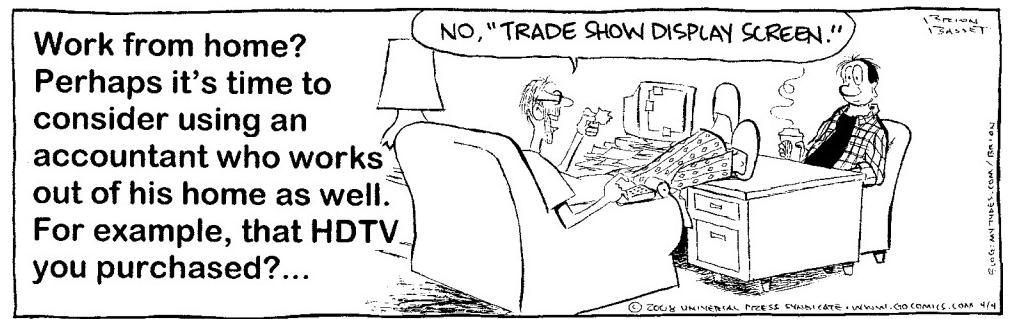
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



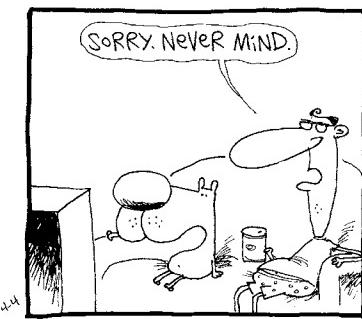
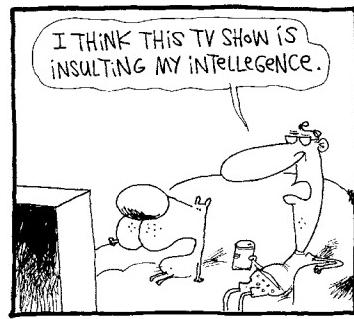
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

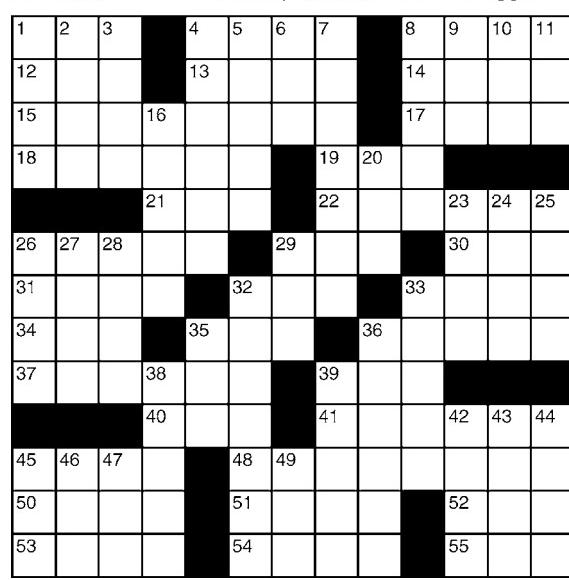


By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Recep-	DOWN	24	Do some		
1 Try for a Tony	37	hinderance	1 Church area	24	censoring		
4 Slightly	39	"Quiet!"	2 Part of a	25	Hipsters		
8 Har-	40	Squid	of 1960s	26	of 1960s		
vester's		squirt	London		Venomous		
yield	41	"Family Guy"	Batman costume	3	vipers		
12 "Ulalume"		home-	Prepared	27	Contrive		
writer		town	to drive	28	Parks or		
13 Paddock	45	Rocky	Star-	29	Bonheur		
papa		peak	related	30	Morning		
14 One way	48	Spherical	5 In one's	31	moisture		
to travel		candy	cups	32	\$20 bill		
15 Large,	50	Stack	6 Exist	33	portrait		
fragrant	51	Ellipse	7 Cul-de-	34	Clinic		
flower	52	Cube root	sac	35	goings-on		
17 Pre-swan	53	of XXVII	8 Fragment	36	Brooch		
18 Respect-		Unorigi-	9 Tatter	37	Medieval		
able		nal	10 De-	38	peasants		
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19 Weir	54	Catches	11 Wield	40	Small		
21 Shaft of		red-	diligently	41	pigeon		
light		handed	16 Spooky	42	Rapunzel's		
22 Symbol	55	Director	20 "I —	43	ladder		
26 "— in		Reiner	Rock"	44	Hodge-		
Paris"			23 Slender	45	podge		
29 "CSI"				46	Smooth-		
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30 Tokyo's				48	Book-		
old name				49	keeper		
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fizz					46	Wardrobe	
32 Clampett					47	malfunc-	
patriarch					48	Pub	
33 Incursion					49	order	
34 Neg.							
opposite							
35 Handle							
roughly							
36 Coins							
Solution time: 25 mins.							
Yesterday's answer 4-4							



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Jamie Lynn Spears, 17; David Blaine, 35; Robert Downey Jr., 43; David Cross, 44

Happy Birthday: Don't overdo it this year. Instead, set reasonable goals and do your best to accomplish them. An opportunity to get involved in an obscure group or pastime will help you grow. It's time to get serious about your lifetime achievements and to research what it will take to head in that direction. Your numbers are 3, 12, 21, 27, 30, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An open mind and willingness to compromise will save you from making a mistake that could cost you a friendship. If you are considerate and sensitive, you will build a rapport with others that will help you in the future. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A business trip will be successful. You will discover something about yourself that will make a difference to the way you do things in the future. Learning to be more adventuresome will help you readjust to a healthier lifestyle. ☀☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Understand the implications of not following through with a promise. You may not be able to live up to your reputation, causing a falling out with someone you need on your side. Be prepared to turn a wrong into a right. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trust in yourself and you will succeed. You will have some great ideas that can lead to some serious cash. A partnership will give you momentum and help ease the stress of the workload. A love commitment will be reciprocated. ☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel and you will experience something unique. New activities, events or hobbies will give you more to work with professionally. Love is heading your way, so mingle if you are single or do something memorable with someone you love. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Arguments are likely to break out over money, agreements or what takes priority. The changes you make at home may not please some of your friends and relatives but will work in your favor. Trust your own judgment. ☀☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect opposition and you will be ready for

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let temptation get the better of you. You'll upset your world if you do and all you will get in return is a moment's pleasure. Pick and choose wisely if you want to keep your life running smoothly both professionally and personally. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are heading into good times, personally and financially. A partnership will be beneficial. A little creative accounting and you will turn a little into a lot. An opportunity will develop through networking or socializing with industry people. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the whole picture before you decide what needs to be done. Be more concerned with your own responsibilities than those of others. If you overspend or take on too much, you will appear unreliable or disorganized. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel and you will experience something unique. New activities, events or hobbies will give you more to work with professionally. Love is heading your way, so mingle if you are single or do something memorable with someone you love. ☀☀

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BIRTHDAY BABY: You are adaptable, insightful and inventive, with a powerful presence that commands the attention of whoever you are with. You are passionate and playful in all that you do.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY



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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

whatever challenge comes your way. Preparation will be the key to getting your way and winning whatever competition you encounter. You can maneuver into a power position. ☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You do have to think on your feet and act quickly but that doesn't mean you should be impulsive or erratic. Fast talk will work wonders and buy you the time required to figure things out as you go. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional temptation is apparent. Passion is in the stars. Think matters through so that you don't lose sight of the consequences that can occur if you don't make the right decision. Compliments are nice but don't let them go to your head. ☀☀

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are adaptable, insightful and inventive, with a powerful presence that commands the attention of whoever you are with. You are passionate and playful in all that you do.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALUMINUM CANS

M	O	N	E	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	M	S	S	R
G	U	C	U	S	B	R	O	U	N	D	C	E	E	C
E	N	N	O	T	N	E	M	T	R	O	S	S	A	S
R	C	I	I	N	S	A	E	R	F	T	P	L	T	
O	E	B	T	M	T	M	C	E	E	A	A	I	E	O
T	S	T	U	T	E	D	D	U	C	Q	C	D	R	
S	W	B	E	L	U	L	N	R	I	U	Y	D	E	A
F	P	E	O	M	K	C	A	T	I	S	E	C	S	G
O	A	V	I	S	A	N	Y	D	S	V	P	D	L	E
O	C	E	S	G	T	I	S	L	R	O	I	O	S	E
D	K	R	O	S	H	A	D	U	I	Q	L	R	S	P
I	A	A	U	O	G	T	C	R	N	E	I	E	E	
U	G	G	P	F	I	S	H	K	E	V	D	B	D	E
L	E	E	T	S	T	A	L	F	I	E	A	E	A	K
F	N	A	N	S	L	A	E	D	S	S	B	L	R	L

4/4

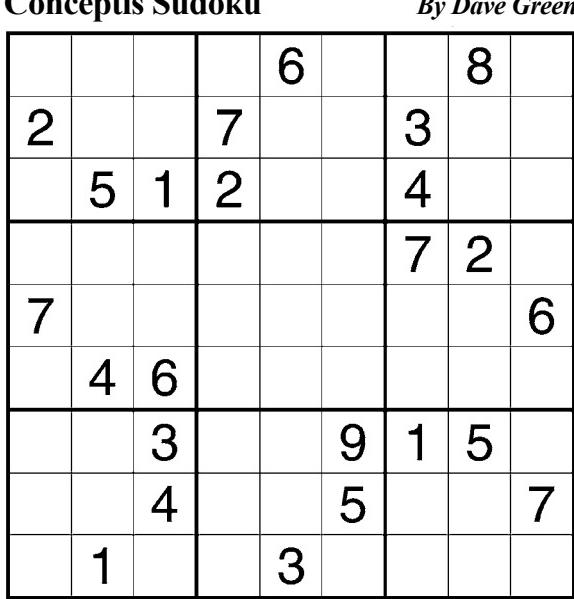
Aluminum, Assortment, Beer, Beverage, Bulk, Cans, Capacity, Conserve, Contents, Curved, Cutting, Cylinder, Deals, Diameter, Dispose, Diverse, Fish, Flat, Fluid, Food, Keep, Label, Lids, Liquids, Meat, Nuts, Open, Ounces, Oval, Package, Recycle, Restaurants, Round, Scored, Sealed, Sides, Solid, Soup, Stack, Steel, Storage, Store, Surface, Tight, Volume, Weight

Yesterday's Answer Barbecue

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$10.95 (plus shipping, funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate, Inc., 1000 Dearborn Street, Suite 1000, Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6685. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner **\$25**
- 5-Liner **\$35**
- 3-Liner with picture **\$45**
- 5-Liner with picture **\$55**

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- 3-Liner **\$25**
- 5-Liner **\$35**
- 3-Liner with picture **\$45**
- 5-Liner with picture **\$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position

\$13.00

2nd position

\$5.00

Succeeding positions

\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, vs. JOHN T. SABLAM, GLORIA DLG. SABLAM, AND ANTONIO W. NEKAIFES.	Civil Action No. 07-0177 NOTICE OF SALE Defendants.
--	---

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in his matter on February 26, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, an of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofao, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale.
The sale will be held on April 25, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in the general area.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of die property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2-bedroom apartment with laundry facility. Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau behind Hakubutan. \$400/mo. Tel: 483-1974

BUSH CUTTER REPAIR LAWN MOWER

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Commercial Space & Room for Rent

- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Ming L wholesale), work-shop, office, day-care, etc. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laulu.
- Room from \$60-\$140 monthly. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laulu.

Contact Ivan @ 285-9966, 235-0479
email:ivanhome_6@hotmail.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY ONE (1) SALES REPRESENTATIVE With 2 yrs sales experience.

CONTACT:
Philpan International Corp.
235-6100/6695/3714

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-596
--	---	-------------------------

Plaintiff, : -v-	:	
---------------------	---	--

JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOROLKERIIL,	:	
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Defendants. :		
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SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MISCELLANEOUS

Bud's Bar Boogie. Every Frid. & Sat. Starting @ 0930pm until DJ w/ Sam Joyner. First Lady drink free after 0930pm

WHATZIT Solution:
Be seein' you

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ADMIN. ASSISTANT (WF 0040)
Salary:\$615.33-\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Anthony C. Ayuu @235-5902.

1 HOUSEWORKER (FSUN 0071)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided by employer; food provided by employer & medical. Contact: Barbara Yamada @235-2624.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0072)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 MECHANIC (FSUN 0073)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

2 MASON (FSUN 0074)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 ELECTRICIAN (FSUN 0075)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 CARPENTER (FSUN 0076)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

FOR RENT

4 bedroom 1 bathroom house w/fenced yard and parking, right next to Koblerville Elementary and Southern High School. Semi-Furnished - \$550

C.K. Apartments

2 bedroom apartment w/fenced yard, spacious parking, mango, breadfruit, tangerine trees, free internet and satellite TV, approximately 900 sq. ft. per unit
Unfurnished - \$350 • Furnished - \$400

234-3010 / 483-7734

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper



235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

bc

Find today's solution in this section

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-BOP-057 (A) (B) (C)**

OPENING DATE: APRIL 17, 2008 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SERVER WITH OPEN LICENSE SERVER OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE, ONE (1) RACK AND ONE (1) KVM SWITCH FOR THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

SUBMISSION OF BID VIA E-MAIL TO procurement@pticom.com IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH T. GUERRERO
CHIEF OF PAROLE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-DPH-056 (A) (B) (C)**

OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2008 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) DESKTOP COMPUTERS, ONE (1) LAPTOP COMPUTER AND ONE (1) PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CRM-052**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 6, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT REPORT FOR CNMI BEACHES AND LAGOON USAGE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE MORGAN BUILDING ON BEACH ROAD, IN SAN JOSE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRMO NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNER, AT (670) 664-8311, OR BY EMAILING kathy.yukunavage@crm.gov.mp.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670
Fax. (670) 234-9021 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the proposed amendment of its Citizen Participation Plan which sets forth NMHC's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of its Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments should be submitted **no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2008 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian or Rota**. NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations in reviewing the Citizen Participation Plan, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866/7689 or 7670.

JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to April 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

- A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
- B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
- C. Contested Cases
- D. Old Business
 - 1. Discussion about establishment of Adult Business Overlay Zoning Districts
- E. New Business
 - 1. Public Hearings:
 - a. 2008-0310 for construction of a beach concession on the beach near Aquarius Beach Tower, Chalan Kanoa.
 - b. No. 2008-0302 for construction of a golf hotel, villas and staff housing located at the LaoLao Golf Course, Kagman
 - c. No. 2008-0310 for construction of a beach concession on the beach near Aquarius Beach Tower, Chalan Kanoa.
 - 2. Permits: review and decide
 - a. No. 2008-0302 for construction of a golf hotel, villas and staff housing located at the LaoLao Golf Course, Kagman
 - b. No. 2008-0310 for construction of a beach concession on the beach near Aquarius Beach Tower, Chalan Kanoa.
 - 3. Discussion about amendment of the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps
- F. Public Comment
- G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
- H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

**Notice of Change to Date of Public Hearing
U.C. Corp Beach Concession**

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0310, by U.C. Corp. The application is for construction of a beach concession stand for rental of non-motorized watercraft on the beach near Lot 006 H 35, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

**Date: April 10, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan**

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, April 10, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARINA ISLNADS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

P.O. Box 6153 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950-5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925/6958/8036
Fax No.: (670) 234-1013

**EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-006
OPENING DATE: 04/02/08
CLOSING DATE: CONTINUOUS**

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Recycling & Pollution Prevention Coordinator PL-UNGRADED \$24,000.00 to \$28,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan Division of Environment Quality

DUTIES: Please refer to the DEQ Website under Employment Opportunities page.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Bachelor's Degree preferably in Science or five (5) years experience in the environment field. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is "COVERED": Is eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I,7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25 (A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:
Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan Songsong Village San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950 Rota, MP 96951 Tinian, MP 96952

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARINA ISLNADS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

P.O. Box 6153 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950-5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925/6958/8036
Fax No.: (670) 234-1013

**EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-005
OPENING DATE: 04/02/08
CLOSING DATE: CONTINUOUS**

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Environmental Engineer PL-UNGRADED \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan Division of Environment Quality

DUTIES: Please refer to the DEQ Website under Employment Opportunities page.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Preferably with Environmental Engineering experience. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is "EXEMPT": Is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I,7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25 (A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:
Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan Songsong Village San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950 Rota, MP 96951 Tinian, MP 96952

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARINA ISLNADS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

P.O. Box 6153 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950-5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925/6958/8036
Fax No.: (670) 234-1013

**EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-008
OPENING DATE: 04/02/08
CLOSING DATE: CONTINUOUS**

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Environmental Technician PL-UNGRADED (Toxic Waste Management Branch) \$615.38 B/W - \$16,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan Division of Environment Quality

DUTIES: Please refer to the DEQ Website under Employment Opportunities page.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
AA Degree preferably with strong background in health and/or science OR two (2) years of experience in the environmental field. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is "COVERED": Is eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I,7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25 (A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:
Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan Songsong Village San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950 Rota, MP 96951 Tinian, MP 96952



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REANNOUNCEMENT Request for Proposal RFP 08-011

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Preventative Maintenance, Repair, Parts Supply and General Automotive Services for the Public School System Bus and Vehicle Fleets**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-011" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than April 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-011, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (two (2) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, to split awards, or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P & S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-026

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Computers, Accessories, Cameras, LCD Projectors, and LCD Screens for Dandan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer

Arenas returns from knee injury, but Bucks beat Wizards



WASHINGTON (AP)—Gilbert Arenas made a surprise return Wednesday night after 66 games away, but Ramon Sessions provided the Arenas-like dramatics with a 19-foot (6-meter) jumper at the buzzer to give the Milwaukee Bucks a 110-109 victory over the Wizards.

The Bucks, who never led by more than one point, set up the perfect inbounds play to win the game. With 1.1 seconds left, Royal Ivey threw the ball in to Andrew Bogut, who found Sessions open in the corner. There was barely a tick left on the clock as the ball left Sessions' hands, but the shot was clearly good upon instant replay review.

Until then, the evening belonged to Arenas, who scored 17 points and made a pair of free throws with 15 seconds to play to give the Wizards the lead. Arenas played 19 minutes and shot 5-of-9 from the field and 5-of-7 on free throws.

Celtics 92, Pacers 77

At Boston, Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the Celtics beat Indiana to tie the NBA record for the best single-season turnaround.

With the league's best record at 60-15, the Celtics have 36 more wins than last season when they finished 24-58, the NBA's second worst mark. The only other team to improve by that much was the San Antonio Spurs, who went from 20-62 in 1996-97 to 56-26 the next season, Tim Duncan's first.

Boston won its fifth straight and lowered its magic number for clinching the No. 1 seed to two.

The Pacers were led by Danny Granger with 14 points.

Cavaliers 118, Bobcats 114

At Charlotte, North Carolina, LeBron James scored 29 points before fouling out for the only the third time in his career and wasn't on the floor when Cleveland snapped a six-game road skid.

Devin Brown had 20 points, Anderson Varejao had 17 and 12 rebounds and Ilgauskas added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Cleveland.

Richardson had 31 points, Emeka Okafor matched a season high with 25 and Gerald Wallace scored 21 for the Bobcats.

Hornets 106, Heat 77

At Miami, Tyson Chandler was a perfect 10-for-10 from the floor, and his 20-point, 10-rebound effort helped New Orleans down Miami and remain atop the Western Conference standings.

David West scored 22 points and Chris Paul added 14 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, who finished 5-1 on their six-game road trip through the East.

Chris Quinn finished with 18 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Miami, which lost its fifth straight. The Heat are

5-42 since Christmas.

Grizzlies 130, Knicks 114

At Memphis, Tennessee, Javaris Crittenton scored 23 points, Rudy Gay added 21, and the Grizzlies had their best offensive performance this season in a win over the Knicks, who hired Donnie Walsh as their new president earlier in the day.

Michael Conley added 18 points, Juan Carlos Navarro had 16 and Mike Miller 15 as eight Grizzlies reached double figures.

Zach Randolph led New York with 27 points.

Hawks 127, Raptors 120, OT

At Atlanta, Mike Bibby hit a tying 3-pointer in regulation, Josh Smith made two in overtime and Atlanta beat Toronto for its fifth straight win.

The Hawks increased their lead for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot to four games over Indiana, which lost 92-77 at Boston.

Chris Bosh had 24 for Toronto, and T.J. Ford finished with 23 points and 13 assists.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 28 points. Bibby had 26 and Smith finished with 24.

Jazz 117, Timberwolves 100

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur made four 3-pointers and scored 22 points in a win for Utah over Minnesota.

Deron Williams had 19 points and 14 assists for his 49th double-double of the season as the Jazz won for the 24th time in 25 home games and improved to 34-4 at EnergySolutions Arena this season.

Carlos Boozer and Ronnie Price each scored 12 points.



Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas (0) drives to the basket past Milwaukee Bucks' Andrew Bogut, left, and Milwaukee Bucks' Charlie Villanueva during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 2, 2008, in Washington. T

Marko Jaric led Minnesota with 18 points and Rashad McCants had 17 points.

Mavericks 111, Warriors 86

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki unex-

pectedly returned to the starting lineup and scored 18 points after missing four games with

New York Knicks hire Donnie Walsh as president

NEW YORK (AP)—Donnie Walsh is in. Now he needs a little time before deciding if Isiah Thomas is out. Walsh was hired Wednesday as the New York Knicks' president of basketball operations, taking one of Thomas' jobs. Sometime soon, he will decide if Thomas keeps the other one as coach.

That won't happen yet, though. Thomas is in Memphis, where the Knicks continue a five-game road trip Wednesday night, and Walsh won't determine the coach's future until they have met in person.

"I need to sit down with Isiah and have a meaningful basketball conversation," Walsh said. Walsh will have complete power to decide. Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan gave the longtime Indiana Pacers executive full autonomy to shape everything from the team's roster to the organization's media policy.

"His mandate is clear—do whatever is necessary to turn

this team around," Dolan said.

There is so much to fix.

The Knicks (20-54) are finishing their seventh straight losing season and are just as dysfunctional off the court. Thomas and Dolan were found to have sexually harassed a former team executive, Thomas has feuded with some players this season, and fans at Madison Square Garden frequently chant for him to be fired.

But Walsh, a New York native, said he is not returning home to be a savior.

"I'm not the great new hope. I'm just a guy who's going to come in and try to create a team," Walsh said. "And it's not going to happen overnight, so I don't want any illusions. But I think it has to get better right away."

"I think the people in this city that are paying money to go to games, they've got to see a competitive team. They've got to see a team and I think they have to see a team that makes sense that they can say, 'OK, this could get better. There has to be a direction, which

I think is difficult to do."

Still, there are high hopes that Walsh can turn around a franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since 2001. He isn't sure if he will bring in someone to serve as his general manager.

"In Donnie, the Knicks have secured the services of a seasoned basketball professional who is held in high regard throughout the league and to whom I have often turned for input on basketball matters over the years," commissioner David Stern said in a statement.

"Donnie, in turn, is joining one of our storied franchises, whose team and arena are rich in NBA tradition, and he gets to return to his hometown and a metropolitan area that many of his family members call home."

Walsh will report directly to Dolan—Thomas reported to MSG Sports president Steve Mills—and has been assured there will be no interference from above. Dolan remains loyal to Thomas, but Walsh said

that won't influence his decision concerning a coach.

"He's more or less left this up to me," Walsh said of Dolan.

The 67-year-old Walsh recently announced he was leaving the Pacers after 24 years with the organization. He joined the Pacers' front office as general manager in 1986, became team president in 1988 and CEO in 2003. He helped the franchise rise from NBA laughingstock to title contender.

"One of the highest things on my list is Donnie's happiness," Pacers co-owner Herb Simon said. "If that is what he wants, I'm very happy for him. He has given us 24 years of incredible service. I think he'll do a great job."

Walsh hired Thomas to coach the Pacers in 2000 and said Thomas has a "great basketball mind." Walsh also said he needed to talk to players like Stephon Marbury and Eddy Curry before deciding their future with the team.

Like many people through-

a high ankle sprain, and Dallas downed Golden State to beat a winning team for the first time since acquiring Jason Kidd.

Jason Terry equaled his season high with 31 points and Josh Howard added 28 for the Mavericks.

Kidd matched a season-high 17 assists and had 11 rebounds and five points for the Mavericks, who had been 11-10 since getting the All-Star point guard in a trade from New Jersey at the All-Star break. Dallas was 0-10 against teams with winning records with Kidd.

Clippers 102, SuperSonics 84

At Seattle, Elton Brand made his long-awaited season debut and scored 13 points in the fourth quarter and Al Thornton had 21 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Seattle.

Brand had missed the entire season while recovering from a surgically repaired left Achilles' tendon, after being injured during an offseason workout on Aug. 3. He finished with 19 points and five rebounds.

Corey Maggette added 20 points and Dan Dickau added 13 for the Clippers.

Kevin Durant led Seattle with 30 points.

Lakers 104, Trail Blazers 91

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 14 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter, Pau Gasol added 10 points in his first game in nearly three weeks and the Lakers beat Portland.

Bryant also had 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers (51-24), who trail New Orleans by 1 1/2 games and San Antonio by one game in the Western Conference standings.

Travis Outlaw and Martell Webster scored 23 points each for the Blazers.

out the league, Walsh said the Knicks have talented individuals on their roster and believes the problem could be "the mix of players."

"Beginning of the season, if you just looked at the roster, you'd say these guys could be pretty good," Walsh said. "And I really thought that."

Dolan will even allow Walsh to dictate his media policy. The Knicks don't allow individual interviews with players or staff unless a public relations official is present, and Walsh is known to be friendly with the media.

"I think access is a big part of most franchises," Walsh said.

The Knicks and Pacers once had a fierce rivalry, meeting in the Eastern Conference finals in 1994, 1999 and 2000. Walsh remembers what Madison Square Garden was like back then, and wants it to be that way again.

"That's it. That was it. That is it. That's where I want to go to, get that back," he said. "That's what I'd like."

Lester blanks A's, Ortiz homers to lead Red Sox to win



OAK-
LAND,
Calif.

(AP)—Jon Lester pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning, David Ortiz broke open a scoreless game with a two-run homer and the Boston Red Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 5-0 Wednesday.

Kevin Youkilis had a double and a run-scoring single while setting the Major League Baseball record for consecutive errorless games by a first baseman at 194, one more than Steve Garvey. The Red Sox defeated the A's for the third time in four games that began last week in Japan.

Jason Varitek added a ninth-inning homer for Boston. Lester (1-1) combined with Bryan Corey and Manny Delcarmen on a four-hitter.

Royals 4, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Brian Bannister (1-0) allowed two singles in seven innings, combining with Leo Nunez and Joakim Soria on a three-hitter—three singles by Edgar Renteria.

Kansas City is 2-0 for the second time in 28 years. The Royals won their first nine games in 2003 en route to their only winning season since 1993.

Indians 7, White Sox 2

At Cleveland, Fausto Carmona pitched seven innings in his season debut and Grady Sizemore had three RBIs as Cleveland downed Chicago.

With his signature sinker dipping and dancing away from Chicago's hitters, Carmona allowed one run and four singles. He got 16 of his 21 outs on grounders, struck out four and kept Jim Thome in the park, something Indians' ace C.C. Sabathia couldn't do in the opener.

Thome, who homered twice off Sabathia on Monday, grounded into two of Chicago's three double plays and flied to right—the only fair ball hit into the air against Carmona.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 2

At New York, A.J. Burnett and



Boston Red Sox' Jonathan Lester works against the Oakland Athletics' during the second inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 2, 2008, in Oakland, Calif.

Toronto overpowered New York, allowing two runs in six innings, and Vernon Wells hit a two-run homer off Mike Mussina.

Alex Rodriguez hit his first home run of the season, a two-run shot that chased Burnett (1-0) with none out in the seventh.

The Yankees tried to rally in the ninth, opening the inning with consecutive singles before Jeremy Accardo struck out Rodriguez and retired Jason Giambi on a deep fly. Robinson Cano flied out to end it.

Angels 1, Twins 0

At Minneapolis, Joe Saunders threw eight shutout innings and Howie Kendrick came home on a wild pitch in the seventh for Los Angeles.

Helping hold the rotation together with John Lackey and Kelvim Escobar stuck on the disabled list, the left-handed Saunders sailed through his first start with only four hits and one walk allowed. He struck out three and got 14 groundball outs, including three double plays, one game after Minnesota made 19 of them while losing 9-1 to Jon Garland.

Francisco Rodriguez picked up his first save with a hitless

ninth, extending the team's streak of wins when leading after eight innings to 159 games—the longest current run in the majors.

Orioles 9, Rays 6

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff drove in four runs to rally Baltimore past Tampa Bay in front of the smallest crowd in Camden Yards history.

Huff hit a two-run homer to pull the Orioles to 6-5 in the sixth inning, then doubled in two runs in the eighth to put Baltimore ahead for the first time.

Huff was jeered during the opener on Monday and again on Wednesday because of derogatory comments he made about the city of Baltimore on a syndicated radio show during the off-season. But the boos subsided after his home run, and the fans applauded after Huff's double in the gap off Al Reyes (0-1) in the eighth.

Jamie Walker (1-0) struck out the side in the eighth and George Sherrill worked the ninth to earn the save in his Baltimore debut.

Cliff Floyd and Carlos Pena homered for the Rays.

Mariners 4, Rangers 1

At Seattle, Carlos Silva al-

lowed three hits and one run in his Mariners debut as Seattle downed Texas.

Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer and No. 5 starter Miguel Batista got his first save in three years.

Batista, Seattle's leader with 16 wins last season before he got shoved to the back of the rotation by the arrival of Silva and new ace Erik Bedard, quickly got Hank Blalock and Milton Bradley to fly out. Then Frank Catalanotto grounded out for Batista's first save since Sept. 27, 2005, at Boston.

Brewers 8, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Jeff Suppan held Chicago to two runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings, Rickie Weeks homered on the game's first pitch and Jason Kendall reached base five straight times to lead the Milwaukee Brewers over the Cubs.

Ryan Braun and ex-Cub Kendall—batting ninth—had three hits each in Milwaukee's 14-hit attack.

Suppan (1-0) gave up Derrek Lee's home run leading off the fourth inning on a 5-degree Celsius (41 Fahrenheit) day and left after allowing Geovany Soto's home in the seventh.

Nationals 1, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Tim Redding took a one-hitter into the eighth inning and Ryan Zimmerman hit a solo homer to help Washington stay unbeaten.

Redding (1-0) allowed just a single by Pedro Feliz in the second inning and walked three batters in seven innings. He out-pitched Cole Hamels (0-1), who gave up one run and five hits in eight innings.

Redding retired 14 straight batters after Feliz grounded a single to center. He walked Ryan Howard in the seventh and left after walking Geoff Jenkins to start the bottom of the eighth.

The Nationals are 3-0 for the first time since 2003 when they were the Montreal Expos.

Reds 6, Arizona 5

At Cincinnati, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to give Cincinnati its first victory under manager Dusty Baker.

Arizona took a 5-3 lead into the ninth on the strength of an impressive debut by right-hander Dan Haren, who doubled, scored a run, hit a sacrifice fly and pitched six innings.

Brandon Lyon (0-1), who took over the closer role after Jose Valverde was traded in the offseason, came on and quickly gave it away. Brandon Phillips, who homered earlier, and Adam Dunn opened the ninth with singles. After Encarnacion failed to get down a sacrifice bunt, he hit his first homer of the season into the lower deck in left field.

Mets 13, Marlins 0

At Miami, Ryan Church and David Wright each homered, Carlos Beltran had three doubles and New York pounded out 17 hits to beat Florida.

Church had three hits and drove in three runs, and every Mets starting position player had at least one hit and scored at least once.

Oliver Perez allowed five hits over six scoreless innings to pick up his a win in his season debut.

Wright's three-run homer off

Lee Gardner capped a five-run sixth inning.

Andrew Miller took the loss, giving up five runs and eight hits over 4 1-3 innings in his Marlins debut.

Braves 10, Pirates 2

At Atlanta, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer and Yunel Escobar added a three-run shot in Atlanta's seven-run eighth inning.

Jair Jurrjens, acquired in the offseason deal that sent Edgar Renteria to Detroit, got the win. He gave up seven hits and two runs in 5 1-3 innings to help the Braves avoid an 0-3 start. Jurrjens struck out five with only one walk.

Jurrjens gave up only four hits in five scoreless innings before tiring in the sixth. He was pulled after giving up three hits in the inning, including Xavier Nady's two-run double.

Cardinals 8, Rockies 3

In St. Louis, center fielder Rick Ankiel homered, singled twice and made a diving catch as St. Louis beat Colorado.

The Cardinals' string of 165 consecutive regular-season sellouts ended with announced attendance of 39,915 in chilly weather.

McNamee to sell memorabilia for charity

BOSTON (AP)—Brian McNamee was planning to dump all his mementos of his relationship with Roger Clemens. Then a friend persuaded him to think better of it. Now the former personal trainer who claims he injected the seven time Cy Young Award winner with steroids is selling dozens of personal items in an online auction, and donating the profits to his juvenile diabetes charity.

A baseball signed by Clemens and McNamee that started the day Wednesday at \$38 was bidding \$4,000 by late afternoon, said Phil Castinetti, a friend of McNamee's and owner of SportsWorld in Saugus who is handling the sale.

At Castinetti's suggestion, McNamee turned over 50 to 60 items including hats, uniforms, balls and pictures of Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, Jose Canseco - "all the steroid guys," Castinetti says.

To make them unique, McNamee also signed them, and managed to take a dig at Clemens at the same time. Clemens often signs "Cy 7" after his name to denote his seven Cy Youngs.

McNamee signed some of his "Ly 0,"—as in zero lies. The first auction will end Friday.

Sorry, no syringes.

Dodgers' Larry Bowa fumes about 3-game suspension

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dodgers third base coach Larry Bowa was incensed on Wednesday after being suspended for three games and fined by the commissioner's office following a wild argument the night before.

Bowa was tossed in the sixth inning against the San Francisco Giants by umpire Ed Montague, who had told him to keep within the boundaries of the coaching box. Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, cited Bowa for "inappropriate and aggressive conduct," which included making contact with Montague several times.

"It's ludicrous is what it is. Probably the suspension's more

ludicrous than the rule," Bowa said before Wednesday night's game. "There's no due process. For getting kicked out of the game, you get a three-game suspension. It's totally uncalled for. I have no idea why. You have to ask the people in New York that wear the coats and ties and don't get on the field."

"You've got guys who tested positive for steroids and admitted they took them—no suspensions. They're still playing," Bowa said. "The very least Bowa expected from Watson after his ruling was an explanation."

"I got a fine, which I expected. But I don't even know what the

fine is, to be honest with you," Bowa said. "I left a voicemail, and obviously I knew I wouldn't get a return call from him. They don't want to hear the coach's side of the story."

Bowa is convinced that Watson is trying to make an example out of him.

"He's done it since I've been out of baseball as a player—as a coach and as a manager. That's his gig. He wants to get me any way he can get me," Bowa said. "Bob Watson's very prejudiced against me for some reason."

Manager Joe Torre expressed concern that this incident, in addition to Bowa's well-documented grousing during spring

training about the new rule forcing base coaches to wear helmets, might make him a constant target.

"He's been the most outspoken about it," Torre said. "I mean, if they're going to continue to throw him out, obviously he can't do his job. And now, when you put a bull's-eye on your back—having been thrown out for that reason one time—we're probably going to have more umpires taking notice of where he's standing."

Major League Baseball announced in February that starting this year, first- and third-base coaches must not cross the lines toward home plate or the

field until batted balls pass them. Only then can they take up other spots to guide runners.

Montague said Tuesday night that it was "probably one of the dumbest ejections he's had."

Bowa's latest ejection was his first since July 11, 2004, when he was managing Philadelphia and got run after arguing balls and strikes with umpire Rob Drake. He was ejected 22 times during his four-year stint as Phillies manager, and five times while piloting San Diego—all in 1987.

Bowa was also thrown out five times in 1986 when he managed the Padres' Triple-A club in Las Vegas.

Indiana introduces Crean as new coach



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—Tom Crean knows what's ahead.

After spending nine years putting Marquette back on the national map, Crean faces a more daunting challenge: rebuilding Indiana's legacy. He replaces Kelvin Sampson, who resigned before last season ended amid NCAA allegations of recruiting violations.

"We are not going to be overwhelmed by the challenges, we are going to have to embrace them," Crean said at a news conference Wednesday.

Crean held a T-shirt that read "Crean & Crimson," a play on the team's colors of cream and crimson. He will try to restore the reputation of a team that changed coaches three times since Bob Knight's firing in 2000.

He acknowledged it won't be a quick fix.

"We need everyone to understand that this is going to take some time."

The university seems ready to give him time—an eight-year contract—with an average salary of more than \$2 million.

Crean grew up a Hoosiers fan and attended one of Knight's clinics as a boy. He embraces the university's basketball tradition.

"It's Indiana," he said. "That is the bottom line, that is the premise that we are going to work under here."

Crean was 190-96 in nine seasons at Marquette and led the Golden Eagles to a NCAA Final Four appearance in 2003.

He accepted the Hoosiers job Tuesday, jumping into the tumultuous environment of player dissatisfaction and uncertain future because of possible NCAA sanctions that occurred before Sampson's resignation. Last season was one of the darkest in Hoosiers history, despite their 25-8 record.

The Hoosiers' promising start got lost in the undercurrent of Sampson's phone-call scandal, which led to NCAA allegations of five major infractions and his Feb. 22 resignation.

It got even worse.

Six players skipped interim coach Dan Dakich's first practice and there was the threat of a player boycott. When that didn't happen, the Hoosiers lost their zeal to play, dropping four of their last seven games, including a first-round game to Arkansas in the NCAA tournament.

On Tuesday, Dakich kicked starting guards Armon Bassett and Jamarus Ellis off the team. If freshman guard Eric Gordon turns pro as expected, that would mean all five starters could be gone from last year's team. Still, the Hoosiers and their fans expect wins.

"I walked into a tradition that I have understood and have had great feelings for since I was very young," Crean said, recalling watching Indiana's 1976 championship team as a 10-year-old.

Dakich and Ray McCallum, promoted to assistant head coach after Sampson's resignation, were already cleaning out their offices Tuesday night.



PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A show of hands made it obvious that reseeding the NFL playoffs wasn't such a good idea.

So the league's competition committee withdrew the proposal Wednesday after an informal vote sent it "down in flames," according to New York Giants co-owner John Mara.

The owners did pass several resolutions, including eliminating the forceout on receptions; allowing teams to defer their decision to the second half when winning the opening coin toss; and making field goals and extra points subject to replay review to determine whether the ball passes over the crossbar and through the uprights.

In addition, any direct snap from center that is untouched by the quarterback now will be a live ball; in the past it was considered a false start and the play was blown dead. The 5-yard penalty for incidental contact with a facemask has been eliminated, with the 15-yarder remaining for any grasping or twisting of the facemask.

On Tuesday, the owners approved a communication device in the helmet of one defensive player.

Competition committee co-chairman Rich McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons, was not surprised about the lack of support for reseeding, in which a wild-card team with a better record than a division winner would play at home in the first playoff round.

"This idea we wanted to push this year to get the discussion going," McKay said. "There were not a lot of hands up, so we withdrew the

No vote on NFL playoff reseeding

proposal for now.

"There is the historical idea that a division champion should have a home game."

Which was exactly why Patriots owner Robert Kraft opposed reseeding.

"I do believe if you win a division, it's good for your fans to know you will have a home game," Kraft said. "To win a division, there is a reward and we wanted to keep that."

There remains concern about late-season games becoming meaningless when teams already have secured their playoff positions. Commissioner Roger Goodell indicated discussions of reseeding are not dead.

"The focus I said to the competition committee is what are the alternatives we have to make sure every game is as competitive as possible," Goodell said. "I think the debate was good."

Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher said eliminating the forceout rule was approved unanimously and that it will help officiating. A receiver now must get two feet inbounds unless he actually is carried out of bounds by a defender after catching the ball.

Fisher also noted how strongly deferring the choice on the coin toss, currently the rule in college, was accepted 30-2.

"I was surprised by the support. We'll see how that goes," he said. "It now gives coaches a third option. After talking to a number of coaches, many prefer to start on offense. I think we may see (more) deferrals later in the year with weather considerations."

Reviewing field goals was a slam dunk for the owners after a kick by

Cleveland's Phil Dawson to tie a game at Baltimore hit the support behind the crossbar, then came back onto the field. Officials got the call correct despite not being allowed to use replay. Now they can.

Goodell also was given a pledge by the owners to support his protection of the integrity of the game, something for which he has been praised in his 18 months in charge. The NFL's image has taken some hits with the Michael Vick and Pacman Jones situations and the Spygate scandal. Goodell acted swiftly in all those cases, impressing the league membership.

Also:

- Goodell reiterated he wants to meet with former Patriots employee Matt Walsh, who has indicated he has more information about the team tapping opponents' signals. But Goodell added "at some point, I will run out of patience."

- McKay said the competition committee will look into scheduling more games between division opponents late in the season to combat the possibility of meaningless matchups.

- The committee will investigate what to do with the defensive player who has the communication device when that player also is on special teams. He suggested the device would be cut off during such plays.

- Goodell emphasized the owners' support for NFL Network and his optimism that the channel will wind up on the main tiers of the major cable outlets with which the league currently is feuding.

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Falcons survive D9ers test

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Tanapag Falcons survived its very first acid test in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League, escaping with a 10-inning 12-11 win over the San Roque D9ers on Wednesday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win, the fourth in as many games for the YCO Corp.-backed team, kept the back-to-back title-seeking Fal-

cons within striking distance of league-leading Rock Steady's 5-0 record.

The loss was the third and second straight against two wins for the D9ers of manager Chel Castro as they fell two games behind fourth place Ford Rangers in the standings.

The Falcons were trailing, 11-10, after 8 1/2 innings and the D9ers only need three outs to snap the defending champs' 10-

game winning run, which dates back from last year's playoffs, and hand them their first loss this season.

Jay Camacho led off the bottom of the ninth with a triple off relief pitcher Leeroy Dela Cruz to put the tying run 90-feet away from home plate.

Dela Cruz bounced back after that striking out Ken Kalen then forced Sid Sablan to an infield fly to move the D9ers one out

away from ending the game.

J.R. Suel, however, did not give up that easily and connected on a single to allow Camacho touch home plate to tie the game. Suel moved to second on a pass ball but the Falcons' chances of winning ended when Ned Norita popped out to first baseman Greg Camacho to send the game into an extra inning.

Roy Magofna, who came in the top of the ninth when Paul Camacho was about to bat,

worked his magic in the 10th forcing John Tenorio to an infield fly then gave up a single to Ben Mesa, who moved to second on an error.

Magofna then forced Dela Cruz to fly-out to left field and struck out Larry Tenorio to end the inning.

It was Dela Cruz's chance to keep the D9ers' hopes alive in the bottom of the 10th and he quickly got the first two outs, forcing Mike Pangelinan to fly-out to center field while J.D. Dikito grounded out.

But his luck ended when slugger B.J. Sablan singled then Falcons manager Doru Camacho made an offensive change when

he brought in the speedy Henry Iguel to pinch run for Sablan.

Manager Camacho's substitution paid off when Iguel reached second on an error and scored the winning run on a Jay Camacho RBI single to preserve their winning streak.

Jay Camacho and Dikito only combined for 3-for-12 but were able to drive in six runs. Camacho also had a triple and scored three times. Pangelinan and Suel combined for 4-for-8 with four runs with the latter having an RBI while Kalen went 3-for-6 with one run.

Today's game will have the Rangers clashing with the Korean Dreams at 6:30pm.



Women's Nationals gear up for Marianas Cup

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Football team continues with its ongoing preparation for the 2nd Marianas Cup when they play against the Guam Nationals on April 26.

The team, which is now under the guidance of new national coach Nick Swain, looks forward to its second international match against Guam. The CNMI Men's National team will also compete against their counterparts from Guam the following day.

The CNMI will play host to both Guam squads in back-to-back matches that are expected to be highly competitive and exciting.

Tryouts for the CNMI Nationals began in November last year and the final roster was announced after 17 days.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Women's Committee director Francine Sablan said the team had no holiday break since they trained for most of December.

After a few days break for Christmas and New Year, the team began a month-and-a-half long conditioning program de-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Women's National Football Team pose for a group shot before their practice.

signed to increase their agility, stamina, and endurance.

Swain has been training the Women's Nationals five days a week and they play against other local teams as part of their preparation for the Marianas Cup.

Co-captains Emily Gries and Brenda Schultz, who are both returning national team players, will lead Team CNMI's campaign.

Schultz said this year's team is different from the previous one. "Some of our former players have moved away from the CNMI but we have young players who are the future of the CNMI women's program."

Aside from youth players, Schultz added they also have some permanent residents includ-

ed in the squad, which will serve as the backbone of the women's program for year's to come. "We have a young, fairly inexperienced, and cohesive team."

Schultz said Swain is positive about the women's program as he sets a long-term vision for the National team. She added they are facing a tall order against Guam since it has an excellent women's program.

"They [Guam] are ranked 79th in the world out of 150 [countries], which is very good if you consider how small the population on Guam is compared to other countries."

Schultz said she is pleased that

this time they have a longer time to prepare for the Marianas Cup compared to last year where they have only six weeks to form the team. "We have become closer as a team and so far suffered less injuries. We now know better how each other plays."

The last time the CNMI women's played against Guam was in December last year when a team of seven players saw action in a Futsal tournament and placed third out of 10 competing squads. It was CNMI Women's first time to compete in an indoor tournament, which saw Becca "The Wall" Newman earn the goalkeeper of the tournament award.

can avail of indirect funding and other ONOC-sponsored programs.

Last month, the CNMI scored a major victory in its ONOC associate membership bid after the United States Olympic Committee backed them up.

White received a copy of the letter sent by USOC chief executive officer and secretary general James E. Scherr expressing support for the CNMI's bid. The IOC, according to the letter, is also supporting CNMI's ONOC application.

Sarah Johnson as Athlete of the Month for March and Kai Staal and Marystar Welch as Student Athlete of the Month.

Wong, Johnson, and Staal were nominated for their prowess in last month's 30th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim and the SSC International Meet as well as their exploits as the swimmers in their respective relay teams in the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman triathlons.

Welch, meanwhile, was given the nod for winning the girls' 13-14 age group of the SSC International Meet.

ONOC

From Page 44

and Puerto Rico (a commonwealth associated with the U.S.) are all under U.S. jurisdiction but are IOC members. Puerto Rico became an IOC member in 1948, American Samoa in 1985, and Guam in 1986.

White added being an associate member, the CNMI is not eligible for direct grants from ONOC but

WINKFIELD

From Page 44

president Sakovich, necessitated the appointment of officers and the creation of a board.

Winkfield said he is looking at filling the three other positions on the board in the near future.

Greg Aguon pitched 3 1/2 innings, limiting the Athletics to three earned runs on six hits with three strikeouts and the same number of walks. Alex Monkeya pitched 1/2 inning no-hit innings in relief with one strikeout.

TORGESON

From Page 44

tar Welch, for her part, won Female Student Athlete of the Month for March after topping the girls' 13-14 age group of the SSC International Meet.

Other athletes nominated for

HOMERS

From Page 44

ened by the 10-run mercy rule. He was tagged with 11 earned runs on eight hits with a strikeout and seven walks.

Ferin Rengul pitched two innings in relief allowing five earned runs on five hits with a strikeout and one walk.

Tiana Osada joined the hit parade for the Red Sox going 2-for-3 with two runs and a triple. She had an RBI-triple in a five-run first, an RBI-single in their eight-run rampage, and an RBI-single in a three-run fourth

inning rally.

Jerome Reyes went 3-for-4 with two runs, a double, a triple, and four RBIs. He had an RBI-double in the first then connected with a bases-clearing three-RBI triple in the second.

Nathan Sablan went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, a two-RBI double in the first inning.

Greg Aguon pitched 3 1/2 innings, limiting the Athletics to three earned runs on six hits with three strikeouts and the same number of walks. Alex Monkeya pitched 1/2 inning no-hit innings in relief with one strikeout.

he brought in the speedy Henry Iguel to pinch run for Sablan.

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Today's game will have the Rangers clashing with the Korean Dreams at 6:30pm.

A TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	60	15	.800	—
Philadelphia	38	37	.507	22
Toronto	38	37	.507	22
New Jersey	31	44	.413	29
New York	20	55	.267	40

West Division

Los Angeles	2	1	.667	—
Seattle	2	1	.667	—
Texas	1	2	.333	1
Oakland	1	3	.250	1 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East

Washington	3	0	1.000	—
New York	2	1	.667	1
Florida	1	2	.333	2
Atlanta	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	2	0	1.000	—
Cincinnati	1	1	.500	1
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	1
St. Louis	1	1	.500	1
Houston	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Chicago	0	2	.000	2

West Division

Los Angeles	2	1	.667	—
San Diego	2	1	.667	—
Arizona	1	1	.500	1/2
Colorado	1	1	.500	1/2
San Francisco	1	2	.333	1

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 8, Chicago Cubs 2
Washington 1, Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Mets 13, Florida 0
Atlanta 10, Pittsburgh 2
Cincinnati 6, Arizona 5
St. Louis 8, Colorado 3
Houston 9, San Diego 6
San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 1

Taylor 'ready' to defend championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Defending champion Jeff Taylor is approaching his defense of the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic quite casually, waiting two days before the tournament to tune-up his game.

"I have really not played since our trip to Thailand two months ago. I will go to the driving range tonight and hit some balls to prepare for the event," said the affable DFS Saipan executive.

Turning more serious, Taylor said last Tuesday's Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament was his first round of golf since returning from his Southeast Asia vacation.

"I did play well in that tournament but my short game and wedge game were rusty."

Asked who he thinks will be his main rivals for tomorrow's event, Taylor said Mr. Unorthodox Jess Wabol, Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, and Korean pro Bae Yong Man will be the top contenders.

Last year, Taylor bested eight of the CNMI's top golf-

ers to win the Championship Flight.

The 3-handicapper Taylor shot a 36 in the front nine and 38 in the back to end up with a 74 and a one-shot victory over closest pursuers Wabol and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, who since then has moved to the U.S. mainland. Wabol and Camacho ended up tied with a 75 after both of them shot a 38 and a 37.

The seventh installment of the HANMI Charity will be held tomorrow at the Marianas Country Club. It will have a show time of 6:30am and a shotgun start of 7:30am.

As in years past, cash prizes await the Top 3 winners in five flights—Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

First place goes home with \$500, second \$300, and third \$200. All flights save for the Ladies will be based on gross scores. The Ladies Flight will adopt double Peoria format. All Top 3 placers in the five flights will also be awarded with handsome trophies as well as one-month free golf courtesy of



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Jeff Taylor, shown here in this file photo, will aim for a repeat when the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic tees off tomorrow at the Marianas Country Club.

PTI GSM speeds away with Friday Night title

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Exactly a week ago today, members of PTI GSM received their just deserves after completing a championship repeat by winning the 21st season of the PBA-CBC Friday Night League.

The team ran away with the title it shared with Century In-



MARK RABAGO
PTI GSM team captain Richie Dumla and players Raymond Sanchez, Jojo Santos, Ronald Epan, Lynn Santos, Jonathan Eparwa, Randy Abreau, and youngster Raphael Zapanta pose with their PBA-CBC Friday Night League trophy last March 28 at the Capital Bowling Center.

surance last season after finishing the season that ended last March 14 with a 64.5-31.5 record—more than 3.5 points ahead of eventual runner-up Spartans (61-35) and a full six points more than third place Seabridge/MIFICPA (58.5-37.5).

PTI GSM is made up of team captain Richie Dumla, Raymond Sanchez, Jojo Santos, Ronald Epan, Lynn Santos, Jonathan Eparwa, Randy Abreau,

and youngster Raphael Zapanta. In an interview, Dumla thanked PTI management for continuing to support the team. He said the championship was a total team effort and saluted his players for their dedication and commitment, game in and game out.

He said all players of PTI GSM are back for the 22nd season of the competition and will try their best to win a rare three-peat. UIC (53-43) and RR Con-

The most improved bowlers were Zapanta (17.3-pin improvement) and Nila's Salon's Lala Taitano.

Spartans teammates Richard Leong and Kitz Barja finished 1-2 in the high game scratch with 279 and 278, while Cal topped the women's with her 225.

Darwin Gonzales of Saipan World Resort was No. 1 in the high game with handicap with his 297, followed by the duo of Leong and Ramir De Leon of PTI with their identical 286s. Carol Jagna of Triple J Wholesale was without peer in the women's with her 266.

Eparwa held fort in the high series scratch with his 756 with Barja second with his 747. Cal again topped the ladies with her 583.

Eparwa again was unstoppable in the high series with handicap with his 792 with Barja again finishing runner-up with his 762. Taitano's 792 was good for first place among the women.

In the team special awards, Spartans swept all four categories—high game scratch, high game with handicap, high series scratch, and high series with handicap. PTI GSM finished second in all categories save for high game with handicap where sister team PTI was runner-up.

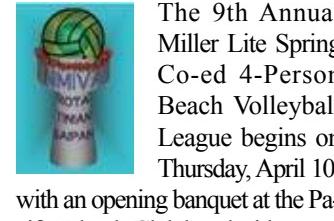
The PBA-CBC Friday Night League was organized by the Philippine Bowling Association and was played at the Capital Bowling Center.

Consulting Services (50-46) complete the Top 5 as well as the money list. PTI GSM took home \$550, Spartans \$300, Seabridge/MIFICPA \$250, UIC \$150, and RR Consulting Services \$100.

In the individual awards, Simon Manacop of Spartans and Ron Cal of PTI were the season's high average winners with their respective averages of 196.52 and 173.3.

Spring volleyball opens next week

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The 9th Annual Miller Lite Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League begins on Thursday, April 10, with an opening banquet at the Pacific Islands Club beach side.

The opening banquet begins at 6pm and players need to be at PIC at 7pm to be included in the four-man roster for each team. The league follows a random draw format.

Registration fee is \$20 for Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association members while non-members will be charged \$25.

Games will be played twice a week, every Tuesdays and Thursdays. The league is expected to end by the first week of June.

Teams must have four players inside the court during each game with one female member.

Last year, top seed Limarh completed its amazing one-loss season when they scored a 15-7 win over the Sand Smackers to win the title. They finished with a 10-1 card tallying 346 points while limiting their opponents to 225 and winning 27 sets in the three-month long tournament.

Limarh was composed of Larry Sharry, Jazz Roscow, J.J. Neth Alison Kaipat, David Terwilliger, and Mika. They breezed through the playoffs scoring consecutive wins over 40 In a Bag, 15-9, No. 4 Matua, 15-11.

Jam Attack attracts 22 teams

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A total of 22 teams have already signed up for the 2008 edition of the Annual Jam Attack Indoor Volleyball Tournament as action begins at 6pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

As of press time, 12 teams will be competing in the men's division, while 10 have signed up in the women's side. At least two to three more teams are expected to join in both divisions since yesterday was the deadline for submission of entries.

The final number of teams and tournament format was not available at press time.

The tournament is also expected to attract squads from neighboring Tinian and Guam, while teams that joined the inaugural Indoor Winter Volleyball League are also expected to vie for this year's title.

Limarh won six day passes with lunch at PIC and \$180 cash for also winning the pennant, while the Sand Smackers won six waterpark passes for two and \$75 cash for finishing as the runner-up.

In the playoffs, Limarh got three waterpark passes for two for emerging as the champion with the Sand Smackers earning one waterpark pass for two and one waterpark pass for one.

Matua's Morgan Rose, who left Saipan last week, was

Marianas Country Club.

Those who weren't fortunate to win in the five flights will be entered into a double Peoria event for a chance to win a free trip.

Aside from the Top 3 winners in the five flights, the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic will also have four hole-in-one prizes in holes No. 6, 8, 12, and 16.

Organizers have also set up an optional nearest to the pin on all par three holes and longest drive in hole No. 14. Only \$25 is needed to sign up.

The 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic is sponsored by Aqua Resort Club, Carlsmith Law Office, Century Hotel, Century Tours, Chung Nam (c/o Mr. Jae), Coral Ocean Point Resort, DFS, D&Q, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Flame Tree TV, Hafadai Beach Hotel, HANMI, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Motors, JSTA, Kautz Glass, Marianas Resort and Spa, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Pacific Islands Club, Procter & Gamble, PTI, Sablan Topline, Saipan Country Club, SaipanCell Communications, Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan Sanki, Saipan World Resort, Takagi & Associates, Tan Holdings Corp., Titan Imports, and 360 Restaurant.

named the most improved player of the league where she received a one-day stay for two at PIC.

Jazz Roscow of Limarh earned the most valuable player title winning a one-day stay for two at PIC.

For more information, call PIC entertainment manager John Waechter at PIC at 234-7976 ext 5147 from Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 5pm or email him at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.



Taylor 'ready' to defend championship

Defending champion Jeff Taylor is approaching his defense of the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic quite casually, waiting two days before the tournament to tune-up his game.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Arenas returns from knee injury, but Bucks beat Wizards

Gilbert Arenas made a surprise return Wednesday night after 66 games away, but Ramon Sessions provided the Arenas-like dramatics with a 19-foot (6-meter) jumper at the buzzer to give the Milwaukee Bucks a 110-109 victory over the Wizards.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Torgeson, Carey are best in March

Staal, Welch are student athletes

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Triathletes Eli Torgeson and Mieko Carey were voted Athletes of the Month for March after splendid performances in last month's 2008 Saipan Sportsfest and XTERRA Guam race.

Torgeson was hands down the March Male Athlete of the Month after putting together three awe-inspiring races in the XTERRA Saipan Champion ship, Tagaman Triathlon, and Guam XTERRA.

The anesthesiologist at the Commonwealth Health Center finished fourth in the local XTERRA race last March 8 with a time of 3:17:11. A week later, Torgeson conquered the Tagaman event in 3:15:49 to finish fourth overall. And in last weekend's Guam triathlon, he came in second to XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman champion Andrew Noble of Australia with a time of 2:31:21.

Carey, for her part, finished second behind XTERRA Saipan women's champion and professional triathlete Renata Bucher of Switzerland with a time of 3:33:29. In the Tagaman seven days later, the pilates instructor and Saipan Swim Club assistant coach came in third behind Bucher and fellow Japanese transplant Maimi Shimizu in 3:32:00. She then concluded her March run with a first-place finish in the Guam XTERRA, conquering the event in 2:47:15.

While triathletes swept the Athlete of the Month honors, it was the swimmers who starred in the Student Athlete of the Month category of NMASA's monthly citation.

Kai Staal of Saipan Swim Club was adjudged Male Student Athlete of the Month after his performance in March's Saipan International Meet, 30th Annual SSC Ocean Swim, and in the swim portions of the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman.

Staal finished first in the boys' 13-15 division of the international meet last March 1, scoring 72 points; and also won the age group in the 2,500-meter distance of the ocean swim the following day, March 2.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Marys-
See TORGESON on Page 42



Carey



Torgeson



Staal



Welch

'ONOC associate member status within reach'

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The CNMI moved one step closer to becoming an associate member of the Oceania National Olympic Committee after ONOC accepted the Commonwealth on provisional status.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White made the announcement in NMASA's monthly meeting held yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White said ONOC accepted CNMI's application to become an associate member during its meeting last month in Fiji. The CNMI is now a provisional member, meaning its membership is subject for review by the committee based on ONOC's charter and bylaws.

White added the review on CNMI's provisional status is only a formality and he is confident that the CNMI would get full associate membership status just like New Caledonia.

New Caledonia, an overseas territory of France, is an ONOC associate member and remains a part of the French Republic like the territories of French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

The CNMI is in direct political union under the U.S. government with federal funds administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Insular Affairs.

The CNMI, Guam (a U.S. territory), American Samoa (an unincorporated U.S. territory),

See ONOC on Page 42

Winkfield is new NMSF president

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Longtime Marianas High School physical education teacher and current Saipan Community School principal Bobby Winkfield is the new president of the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation.

Winkfield, who also used to serve as assistant coach for the Saipan Swim Club, replaces SCC founder Bill Sakovitch as president of the umbrella organization of the sport of swimming in the CNMI.

Also appointed to positions in the NMSF were American Red Cross CNMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh as vice president, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan president Stanley Good IV as secretary, and SSC president Michael Johnson as treasurer.

With only one swim club, the NMSF was essentially inactive the past several years. However, the birth of the Tsunami Saipan in March 2007 and the approval of its membership in NMSF by then NMSF

See WINKFIELD on Page 42

Homers lead Red Sox past Athletics



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Inside-the-park home runs by Thomas Reyes and Craig Aguon highlighted the Bank of Saipan Red Sox's 18-3 win over the Tan Holdings Athletics in their Saipan Little League game last

JON PEREZ
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REPORTER
Jerome Reyes of the Bank of Saipan Red Sox connects with a bases-clearing triple in the second inning of their Majors division game in the Saipan Little League on Wednesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

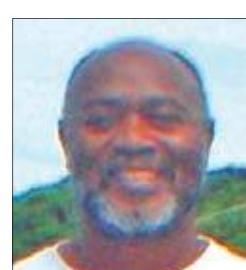
Wednesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Reyes homered twice in the game, blasting back-to-back inside-the-park round-trippers to lead the Red Sox's 13-for-22 batting. He went 2-for-3 scoring two runs with three RBIs.

Reyes had a solo shot in the first inning then a two-RBI four-bagger in the Red Sox's eight-run second inning barrage. Aguon, who went 1-for-2, also had a two-RBI inside-the-park homer in the same inning.

All three home runs came against Athletics starter Jacob Tomokane, who lasted two innings in the game short-

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Winkfield